
Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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CLIPS

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CLIPS - DOMESTIC

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'Activist' ideas in a nonthreatening garb: Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, on a visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra

Dances With Camels

Hillary Clinton: In South Asia, a search for statements—fashion and otherwise

BY JOE KLEIN

THERE WAS CONFUSION, AS WELL AS mystery, in the air: a breeze, a buzz, a hint of movement. There were shouts and flashbulbs now, and walkie-talkies crackling: "Lattimore! Lattimore! Where are you?"

"Over by the dancing camels," said Neel Lattimore, deputy press secretary to Hillary Rodham Clinton. The dancing camels

were next to the dancing horses, and just after the six troupes of Punjabi dancers, and just before the Pakistani orchestra playing third-rate, 20-year-old disco music . . . and also just before the rose-petal altar, which stood in the center of a courtyard where an open-air dinner for 500 was to be laid on by the governor of Punjab—and the camels were dancing in the midst of thousands upon thousands of small, pungent oil lamps,

lining the walks and walls of the ancient Muslim fort at Lahore, casting fairy-tale shadows from golden baubles of light. Exotic did not begin to describe it. The First Lady approached now, moving along a red carpet passing the Punjabi dancers, flanked by her daughter, Chelsea, and Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan. All three wore the *shalwar kameez*, a combination of long tunic and pants, which—in



IRA WYMAN FOR NEWSWEEK

plainer form—has become the required uniform for Islamic women in South Asia. These, however, were brilliantly colored, bejeweled and embroidered—the First Lady's was red, a gift from Bhutto. She looked dazzling. And she seemed to suppress an astonished giggle as two dancing camels bowed before her, then rose and high-kicked together in the soft night air.

Let us talk about fashion and politics. Thirty-three years ago, Jacqueline Kennedy came to this part of the world and made a splash by wearing an Indian sari. The sari is a soft and sensual garment, a wrap of cotton silk that often leaves the arms and midriff exposed. Hillary Clinton's staff had studied film and photos of that trip and been surprised, not just by the sari, but by some of the other clothes Mrs. Kennedy had worn. "Sleeveless sheaths!" said an aide. "She rode an elephant in a skirt that came up above her knee!"

The State Department was warning against exposed female limbs of any sort on this First Lady's trip to South Asia. Times had changed. The local cultures, especially Islamic ones, had grown conservative. "The elite women of Pakistan cannot wear jeans anymore," an Indian feminist told me later in the week. "Now they must dress like the common people, the believers." Hillary Clinton had lowered the hemlines on several skirts in preparation for the trip. But her fashion statement became the shalwar kameez, which is a curious, contradictory apparatus—and a rather neat metaphor for the enduring, torturous complications of her public life.

Practicality: The shalwar kameez was invented by the Sikhs, who wanted to liberate their women from the sari in the early 18th century—so they could join the army and go to war against the Muslims. It was easier to ride a horse in tunic and pants. The combination was adopted by the Punjabis, the largest ethnic group in Pakistan, and institutionalized by the Muslims—when worn with a *dupatta* (scarf), it could seem as prim and furtive as the *burka* (the veiled dress of the truly devout). After the shah was toppled by the Iranian ayatollahs in 1979, a nervous Pakistani leadership leaned on the elites, quietly encouraging the shalwar kameez as required dress for women. At about the same moment—in a lovely irony of the modern world—a new generation of Indian businesswomen were adopting the costume because it was more practical, and comfortable, than the sari.

Modest and practical, a uniform for tradition-bound wives and women warriors ... hmmm. As she wandered from Pakistan to India to Nepal last week, the First Lady seemed to be searching for the rhetorical equivalent of the shalwar kameez, a way to dress "activist" ideas in nonthreatening garb—for both domestic and overseas consumption. "It's one of the most important questions I've been asking myself," she said, curled on a couch in her New Delhi hotel suite several days after the dancing camels. "I think a new language of politics is being born. None of us have it quite right yet, but I'm beginning to see glimmers."

There were glimmers in a remarkable scene at the Islamabad College for Girls, where a group of young women—children of the elite—wondered aloud, and quite el-

oquently, how they could balance their ambitions with the increasingly conservative customs of the country, which most seemed to consider a source of cohesion rather than repression. "We need to establish trust with the [common] people," said a girl who hoped to go into advertising, "so they understand we're not their enemies. They think that with education, girls will get out of hand..."

"That's difficult to do sometimes—establish trust," the First Lady replied. Then a girl asked about the "secularization, the loss of identity" that came with the new global economy. Hillary Clinton began tentatively: "I worry about it a lot. I tried to speak about it a few years ago..." The Politics of Meaning! And then, gathering herself up, she launched into an extended rumination about mullahs, American and Asian; about "the great struggle" to build a tolerant, but



A delightful and serene presence: On a refueling stop in Cairo, Chelsea camel-hopped to the Great Sphinx

BARBARA KINNEY—THE WHITE HOUSE

still "spiritual" response to the "rampant materialism and consumerism... because many of those who are concerned about the lack of meaning and undermining of family life would like to adopt a rigid response to it..." It slowly became clear, as she went on, that she had drifted into a recollection of the 1994 election, her health-care humilia-

tion, all the awfulness. She was talking about *America*, but the Pakistani girls were rapt; they clearly understood her meaning. Indeed, she was reaching them in a way that she had rarely connected with Americans. But then, these were socially conscious children of the elite, caught in the same cultural whipsaw that she was, worried about how to pursue their ambitions without seeming "enemies" of the common folk, without seeming bossy.

Tarted-up exhibits: In April of 1962 *NEWSWEEK* chided Jacqueline Kennedy for forging a somewhat less substantive (upper) class alliance with the South Asians and seeing "only the pageantry of the Indian subcontinent, not its poverty." No chance of that with *this* First Lady. There were daily visits to villages and clinics and schools. But it isn't easy to experience actual poverty on an Official Visit, and these were tarted-up exhibits—roads newly paved, open sewers newly retrenched, garbage dumps (and their human residents) camouflaged by flimsy walls of outrageously cheery print fabrics—all part of the great South Asian Poverty Theme Park that has engaged, and foiled, well-intentioned Westerners since Mrs. Clinton's Victorian Methodist precursors were on the case. In such circumstances it isn't hard to slip into egregious uplift mode. Indeed, Mother Teresa's remarkable New Delhi orphanage—with its rows of well-dressed, ineffably gorgeous and incredibly serene infants in cribs—almost demanded self-righteous excess, but the First Lady didn't gush. She cuddled and rocked several babies, then approached the cameras, and retreated into the stiff public perfection that seems almost a reflexive defense against untoward emotions: "Oh, they're so beautiful," she said, "and I'm so pleased because the minister says adoption is becoming more and more available."

A constant struggle for her: seeming human in public, rather than perfect. She is too wary ever to be entirely open, although there were glimmerings here as well: after a few days on the road, the Stockholm Syndrome set in, entwining Her Ladyship (as some of the locals had it) and Her Traveling Hacks—she was our captive and we were hers—and the atmosphere became downright convivial. The mood changed quickly one afternoon when television reporters were led to believe they might ask Chelsea about her reaction to the Taj Mahal, which the wire services had already gotten. "No!

No," the First Lady flashed and her daughter was hustled off by aides. One wondered about the vehemence. Chelsea was a delightful and serene presence on the trip, a sure source of pride for her mother. But the First Lady's insistence that her daughter never be used as media fodder, admirable in principle, suddenly seemed inflexible, fiercely dogmatic, a reminder of all that had gone wrong for the Clintons these past few years.

But that was only a moment. And there were many others that were much better.

loaned them money and gave them the courage, as one said, "to walk into the village council and talk to . . . the police [who had, before SEWA, harassed them off the street], and speak our minds." The meeting went on for an hour; the First Lady was moved—but, she later said, tired. She had just finished her final remarks when an older woman leaped to the microphone and said, "You've come into our courtyard and filled our hearts with joy and we will never forget you." Suddenly, the entire throng began to sing. The song was familiar, but elu-



PHOTOS BY IRA WYMAN FOR *NEWSWEEK*
Cuddling babies, covering heads: The First Lady and Chelsea at Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi, at the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad

moments that could have veered into self-righteous territory, but didn't. Her message was feminism and activism, to be sure—but clothed in the shalwar kameez of voluntarism. She proselytized programs that Newt Gingrich might adore, nongovernmental programs, safe havens run by altruists rather than bureaucrats, programs that loaned poor women money to start businesses and take care of themselves.

And perhaps the most powerful memory of Hillary Clinton's first week in South Asia came at such a place: the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Ahmadabad. She sat in a hot, dusty, but mercifully covered courtyard, with hundreds of women—a third Untouchables, another third Muslims; rag-pickers, street vendors, the most desperate of the poor—and they told her about their organization of more than 100,000 members, how it unified them.

sive. Slowly, it became clear: they were singing "We Shall Overcome" in the Gujarati dialect. Hillary Clinton later said she found herself thinking about the great circle—from Henry David Thoreau, who was read by Gandhi, who in turn inspired Martin Luther King, whose anthem these women were now singing. A precisely perfect thought, of course. But the human reaction that accompanied it was far more memorable: as they sang, tears welled in Hillary Rodham Clinton's eyes.



OUTLOOK

Soothing the world — and people back home

The pictures were precisely what the White House hoped for. There was Hillary Rodham Clinton, international mother figure, stroking the hands of sweet-faced infants, tending the sick, wearing the traditional *shalwar kameez* tunic and pantaloons of Pakistani women and comforting impoverished villagers throughout South Asia. But the first lady's trip was more than a public-relations gambit. Friends viewed her incarnation as goodwill ambassador for her husband, her country and her gender as part of a longtime quest for self-fulfillment and, more broadly, a "politics of meaning."

The 20,000-mile, 12-day mission showed more clearly than ever that Mrs. Clinton has fundamentally changed the way she defines her job. Since the Republicans' November landslide, she seems to have discovered a healthy sense of her own limits. At least in public, she is no longer the know-it-all policy maker who pushed for an unpopular overhaul of the nation's medical system. Nor is she the moral imperialist who angrily condemned health-insurance companies and Republicans. The overbearing side of her nature may re-emerge, but for now she is all gentle self-deprecation. She recently told *U.S. News* that her role is, above all, to "be there" for her husband.

On her visits to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, she carefully avoided such

contentious issues as human-rights abuses and nuclear proliferation. In New Delhi, she called for improved education and health care for women and girls. She wore native costumes, expressed appreciation for local artists and insisted that her main purpose was to listen and learn. At a New Delhi orphanage supervised by Mother Teresa, Mrs. Clinton and daughter Chelsea cradled infants in their arms and praised the nuns for their commitment. Asked in Lahore, Pakistan, if she had a nickname, the first lady replied with a smile: "Some people, I would imagine, have quite rude nicknames for me."

She had started the week with a dose of self-deprecating humor back home. In a video that her supporters produced for Washington's glitzy Gridiron dinner, she portrayed a female *Forrest Gump*, complete with syrupy Southern accent and simplistic aphorisms. "My mama always told me the White House is like a box of chocolates," she drawled, borrowing the movie's most famous line. "It's pretty on the outside, but inside there's a lot of nuts." Her in absentia spoof was a smash. "Hillary," said California Gov. Pete Wilson, "was dynamite."

Like her husband, she has come to understand that self-deprecation is an essential virtue of public life. Says a friend of the Clintons: "It brings them down to scale when they can laugh at their weaknesses and show they don't think they have all the answers." Some see the first lady's new humility as an attempt to soften her image just as another presidential election cycle begins. And that it may be. But there's no mistaking the fact that her sense of limits is in line with America's conservative mood. The wonder is that it took her so long. □ BY KENNETH T. WALSH

ONE WEEK



Goodwill tour. In Pakistan, Mrs. Clinton

consulted with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, wore a traditional Islamic scarf to a mosque and watched a villager work a loom.

Firebombs Across Germany

In central Germany, police arrested four Kurdish militants in connection with a string of fire bombings targeted at Turkish property across the country. Over the past month, more than 100 Turkish travel agencies, stores, banks, newspaper offices, mosques, cultural centers and meeting halls in 15 German cities have been hit by Molotov cocktails. Officials suspect the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, which has waged an 11-year war for an independent Kurdish homeland.

Carter Mediates Sudan Truce

Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government and southern rebels negotiated a truce with the help of former President Jimmy Carter. The two sides, which have been fighting a 12-year war in which more than 1 million people have died, agreed to a two-month cease-fire so that health workers could try to wipe out the parasitic Guinea worm, which causes debilitating disease.

First Lady in South Asia

Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea embarked on a 12-day official goodwill tour of Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The emphasis: promoting the welfare of women and children. Clinton *mère et fille* toured orphanages, schools and a women's cooperative, as well as the fabled Taj Mahal, which Mrs. Clinton termed "just haunting."

Serious Security

Since the attack that killed two U.S. employees of the American consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, the State Department has provided the diplomatic post with armored vehicles as well as a security team to train its employees. A State Department memo obtained by TIME revealed that, in the months before the attack, a previous security-training team had been virtually ignored by the

THE GOOD NEWS

✓ The pain reliever ibuprofen can significantly slow lung deterioration in some children with cystic fibrosis, according to a new study. The results were most dramatic in children ages 5 to 13.

✓ A test for Parkinson's disease may detect the illness in its early stages, before it affects speech and movement. With earlier diagnosis, researchers say, treatment will be more effective.

✓ Testing of gene therapy for prostate-cancer patients will begin soon. The procedure will, in theory, spark the body's immune system to hunt down tumors that spread from the initial growth in men who have already had surgery.

Sources: GOOD—*New England Journal of Medicine*; University of Arizona; AP: American Cancer Society; Johns Hopkins University; AP
BAD—*New England Journal of Medicine*; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emory University

HEALTH



REPORT

THE BAD NEWS

✓ Women who spend four hours or less on their feet each day incur double the average number of hip fractures; so do those whose mothers suffered a hip fracture, a study of almost 10,000 women shows. Taking sedatives for many years, consuming caffeine and losing weight also increase the risk.

✓ A federal report has found that children born to uneducated mothers are more likely to be mildly retarded than those born to better-educated women. But researchers also discovered evidence that mild retardation may be both prevented and treated. A program has been announced to help mildly retarded children improve their skills.



Winston Who?
Eleven talented moviemakers won Oscars for their contributions to *Forrest Gump*. The number of times each of them thanked certain people—or neglected to—may have unintentionally illuminated Hollywood's pecking order:

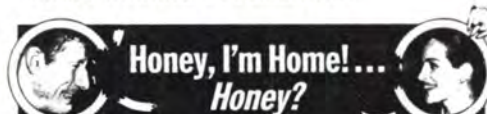
THOSE MENTIONED NUMBER OF THANKS

- **Winners' spouses** ... 9
- **Executive Sherry Lansing and "everyone at Paramount"** ... 7
- **Director Bob Zemeckis** 6
- **"The talented cast and crew"** 5
- **Winners' parents** 5
- **The film's producers** 5
- **The Academy** 4
- **Actor Tom Hanks** 4
- **Winners' kids** 4
- **Agents and/or lawyers** 3
- **Screenwriter Eric Roth** 2
- **Winston Groom, the novelist whose book inspired the entire project to begin with** 1

A HAPPY ENDING

"Hoop Dreams has done a lot for me. It got me into Michael Jordan's birthday party."

—WILLIAM GATES, COLLEGE BASKETBALL PLAYER AND SUBJECT OF THE NOT-ACADEMY-AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY



To the surprise of dozens of Americans, the marriage of Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett broke up last week. How does their marital tenure compare with other celebrity couples?

Madonna and Sean Penn	Months married
Cindy Crawford and Richard Gere	31*
Mia Farrow and Frank Sinatra	25
Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett	21*
Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio	9
Liz Taylor and Conrad Hilton	8
Shannen Doherty and Ashley Hamilton	7
Catherine Howard and Henry VIII	13 days
Lisa Marie Presley and Michael Jackson	10 (and counting)

*Separated

TIME Graphic by Steve Hart. Picture: R. Davis—Shooting Star

Mrs. Clinton, in India, Seeks Idea Exchange

From Reuters

NEW DELHI—First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in India early today saying she wants to exchange ideas on how to help women, children and the poor.

Mrs. Clinton, on the second leg of a 12-day goodwill tour of South Asia, was greeted by U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner and Indian officials at a low-key airport welcoming ceremony.

Mrs. Clinton began her tour with a two-day visit to Pakistan. Wearing the native garb of Pakistani women, she was guest of honor Monday at a candlelight dinner at Lahore's ancient Red Fort attended by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Earlier Monday, she visited a clinic in Burki village near Lahore where she observed a 4-month-old boy being given oral polio vaccine and briefly attended mathematics and English classes at a local girls school.

Afterward she talked with local residents about the problems of women.

"The problem of taking care of your own family and children, and going out and working . . . that causes double time, double duty," Mrs. Clinton said.

Asia trip

Daily Southtown A10 Tuesday, March 28, 1995



AP photo
Hillary Clinton (center) and daughter Chelsea are flanked by children Monday during a visit to the Pakistani village of Burki, about 12 miles from Lahore. The Clintons later arrived in India, the second stop on their five-nation tour of Asia.



JOHN GAPS III ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chelsea and Children

Chelsea Clinton has her hands full Tuesday as she tours the Mother Teresa Orphanage with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in New Delhi, India. At each stop on the Clintons' 12-

day tour of South Asia, children are a prime focus, and the orphanage tour was the pair's first public appearance in India. Mother Teresa was unable to greet them; she was in Vietnam.

■ **CLINTONS VISIT ORPHANAGE:** Hillary Rodham Clinton's first public appearance in **India** was a tour of Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi, where the first lady and her daughter, Chelsea, eagerly picked up two babies in pink lacy dresses and rocked them soothingly in their arms. "The good news is that the children are constantly moving" into permanent homes, the first lady said.

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

Up close to Third World



By John Gaps III, AP

IN NEW DELHI, INDIA: Chelsea Clinton cuddles orphaned toddlers Tuesday as she tours the Mother Teresa Orphanage with her mother, Hillary Rodham Clinton. The two are on a tour of south Asia.

Wednesday, March 29, 1995

First lady meets with poor children in India on tour

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW DELHI, India — It was more than a social nicety when Hillary Rodham Clinton placed her palms together and dipped her head Tuesday to greet a class of slum children assembled in very proper school uniform.

At each stop on Mrs. Clinton's tour of South Asia, children have been a prime focus, and she devoted much of her first day in India to the cause of some of the world's neediest. It seemed only natural that they were among the first to whom she extended the traditional namaste Indian greeting.

Mrs. Clinton's first public appearance in India was a tour of Mother Teresa's orphanage, where the first lady and her daughter, Chelsea, eagerly picked up two babies in pink lace dresses and rocked them soothingly in their arms.

The two went room to room in the crowded children's home, bending over to stroke and pat babies crowded into orderly rows of metal cribs lined up side by side and two deep in places.

"The good news is that the children are constantly moving" into permanent homes, the first lady said.

Indeed, a group of 15 youngsters who had planned to sing for the first lady were gone by the time she arrived, leaving nuns from the Missionaries of Charity to sing for Mrs. Clinton themselves.

Mother Teresa, based in Calcutta, was unable to greet the first lady personally because she was in Vietnam. But she and the first lady have been corresponding about setting up a transitional facility in Washington for children awaiting adoption, aides said.

"It's important to realize that with



AP

Chelsea Clinton visits with children Tuesday as she tours Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Dehli, India. Chelsea and her mother, Hillary Rodham Clinton are on a tour of South Asia.

a lot of love and good organization and planning, you can take care of a lot of children well," Mrs. Clinton said. "But it's never going to be a substitute for a permanent family."

The only other public event on Mrs. Clinton's schedule Tuesday was a visit to the Prayas school project in the shadow of South Delhi's slums.

Started by a faculty wife at the Indian Institute of Technology who decided to teach five slum children to read, the program now educates more than 200 children and trains women in literary, nutrition, health and how to earn money for their skills.

The children meet in the university's outdoor amphitheater and dressing room, where Mrs. Clinton visited science and English class and watched a yoga demonstration, joking, "I tried to remember all of the exercises . . . because I need to work

on my heart and my arms and my waist."

Founder Rashmi Mishra told the first lady the teaching effort was "sustained and inspired by the unstinting love and shared hopes and dreams" of the women and children who benefit from it.

Mrs. Clinton called it "a marvelous example of how people working together can take care of each other." She has placed particular emphasis during her trip on the importance of nongovernmental organizations in helping to meet social needs.

The first lady also visited Tuesday with prominent women of Indian society at a luncheon hosted by Christine Wisner, wife of the U.S. ambassador. She was the dinner guest of Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma at his official residence, Rashtrapati Bhavan, once the elegant home of the viceroy of India.

Hillary's tour focuses on kids

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — It was more than a social nicety when Hillary Rodham Clinton placed her palms together and dipped her head Tuesday to greet a class of slum children assembled in very proper school uniform.

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AP photo

Hillary Rodham Clinton shares a greeting Tuesday with an Indian student at Prayas School in New Delhi.

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First lady puts focus on kids while in Asia

Associated Press

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Nation/World

Indian woman's poem catches first lady's ear

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI—Halfway around the world from the battles that haunt her, an outspoken American woman found a new voice Wednesday in the words of an Indian student, who composed a poem called "Silence" and sent it to Hillary Rodham Clinton with the handwritten exhortation "More power to you."

"Too many women in too many countries speak the same language — of silence," Mrs. Clinton said in a speech, quoting the poem by 20-year-old Anasuya Sengupta, a senior at Lady Sri Ram College in New Delhi.

"My grandmother was always silent, always aggrieved, only her husband had the cosmic right [or so it was said] to speak and be heard.

"They say it is different now," Mrs. Clinton read on, her voice catching just a bit at the end of her speech at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, a research institute.

"But sometimes, I wonder. When a woman gives her love, as most do, generously, it is accepted. When a woman shares her thoughts, as some women do, graciously, it is allowed.

"When a woman fights for power, as all women would like to, quietly or loudly, it is questioned," Mrs. Clinton continued,

still quoting the poem.

"And yet, there must be freedom, if we are to speak. And yes, there must be power, if we are to be heard. And when we have both [freedom and power], let us not be misunderstood."

The poem had special resonance in India, the world's largest democracy, where the birth of a daughter still can be an occasion for dread, where brides are beaten or burned if their families resist in-laws' demands for a higher dowry and where harassment and forced prostitution are common.

But the American first lady, who has so often felt misunderstood and who has kept her own counsel in the months since the collapse of her health-care drive, seemed to be speaking as much to herself and her fellow Americans as to the students in the balcony who exploded in applause.

"I read it [the poem] and I was just overwhelmed by it," Mrs. Clinton said later. Presented to her Tuesday, she said she rewrote her speech Tuesday night so she could incorporate the poem.

In her speech Wednesday, Mrs. Clinton said the first installment—\$500,000—in a new 10-year international aid program for educating females would come to India.

World BRIEFS

Hillary Clinton: Women's Issues Serious

Hillary Rodham Clinton ended a speech at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in New Delhi with a poem entitled "Silence," written for her by Anasuya Sengupta, an Indian college student. "Too many women in too many countries speak the same language—silence," the poem begins. Clinton said concerns "labeled dismissively as women's issues belonging at best on the edge of serious debate" are central to larger political and economic concerns.

Talking to Women in India, Hillary Clinton Finds New Voice

By TODD S. PURDUM

NEW DELHI, March 29 — Halfway around the world from the battles that haunt her, an outspoken American woman found a new voice today in the words of an Indian schoolgirl, who composed a poem called "Silence" and sent it to Hillary Rodham Clinton with the handwritten exhortation: "More power to you."

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"They say it is different now," Mrs. Clinton read on, her voice catching just a bit at the end of her speech at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, a research institute here. "But sometimes, I wonder. When a woman gives her love, as most do, generously, it is accepted. When a woman shares her thoughts, as some women do, graciously, it is allowed."

"When a woman fights for power, as all women would like to, quietly or loudly, it is questioned," Mrs. Clinton continued, still quoting the poem. "And yet, there must be freedom, if we are to speak. And yes, there must be power, if we are to be heard. And when we have both (freedom and power), let us not be misunderstood."

The poem had special resonance here in the world's largest democracy, where the birth of a daughter can still be an occasion for dread, where brides are beaten or burned if their families resist in-laws' demands for a higher dowry and where sexual harassment is commonplace.

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"I read it and I was just overwhelmed by it," Mrs. Clinton said later of the poem, which was given



Hillary Rodham Clinton tried on a mask that she received yesterday at the Crafts Museum in New Delhi.

to her by the college's principal, Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, at a women's luncheon at the American embassy on Tuesday. "And so I was thinking last night about the speech today, and I rewrote large parts of it so that I could use the poem. I think it expressed the feelings that all of us share, that women's voices should be heard and that silence is not appropriate for women in their own lives, and women in the larger world."

Silent is one thing Mrs. Clinton has not been on this official goodwill visit to five South Asian countries, a journey that her Wellesley classmate Martha Teichner, who is covering the tour for CBS News, described jocularly on the air as a "chick trip." It blends the giddiness of a sorority spring break

A schoolgirl describes the struggles of women.

with the sober feel of a graduate seminar on the responsibilities of sisterhood.

Traveling with her entourage of senior aides, almost all of whom are women, the First Lady has sought to straddle the dichotomies of a region where most women remain subjugated, and where others have become pioneers in high political office only at the price of

widowhood or parental assassination.

Mrs. Clinton has steered clear of some policy problems like nuclear proliferation that have long bedeviled United States relations with India and Pakistan, focusing instead on the importance of educating girls and women. An hourlong meeting today with Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao produced only the word that they had discussed how to improve Government performance and economic development.

In her speech today she said that the first installment in a new ten-year international aid program for educating girls and women would come to India, and the amount, \$500,000, was modest enough that she did not even mention it.

At the same time, the First Lady has appeared both freer — and a good deal funnier — than she has seemed at home in some time, even if the South Asia she has seen is a freshly paved, tightly secured and somewhat sanitized version of the real thing.

In Pakistan, the First Lady, a Midwestern-born Methodist, awoke at dawn to the prayer call of a muezzin sounding over the loudspeaker of a mosque, and shared with schoolgirls her thoughts on the politics of meaning and her worries that the "rampant materialism and consumerism" of Western countries is now poised to threaten developing ones.

Asked to name her idol by one ninth-grade English student in the middle-class village of Burki, outside Lahore in eastern Pakistan, Mrs. Clinton replied, "At my age, I don't think I have anyone anymore." Asked by another girl if she had any nicknames, the First Lady replied dryly: "Some people have, I would imagine, quite rude nicknames for me."

Radiant in a billowy red silk shalwar kameez, the traditional Pakistani pajama-style pants suit, she joked to reporters after a moonlight official dinner in the red stone ruins of the Mogul fort at Lahore that she was thinking of experimenting with such a wardrobe back home, in place of the much-remarked past changes in her hairstyle.

In Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity orphanage in New Delhi, she cuddled and cooed at month-old babies with the ease of an experienced mother, never blanching when one little girl tugged at the large gold-and-pearl eagle pinned on her lapel. If she misses a sight or misremembers a story, her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea is there to point it out or correct her with exquisite poise and an air of friendship that would be the envy of most mothers.

"Educating girls is not something that is seen as something to put in banner headlines," she told a group at the Islamabad College for Girls in Pakistan, but "it is something that will change a country if it is done."

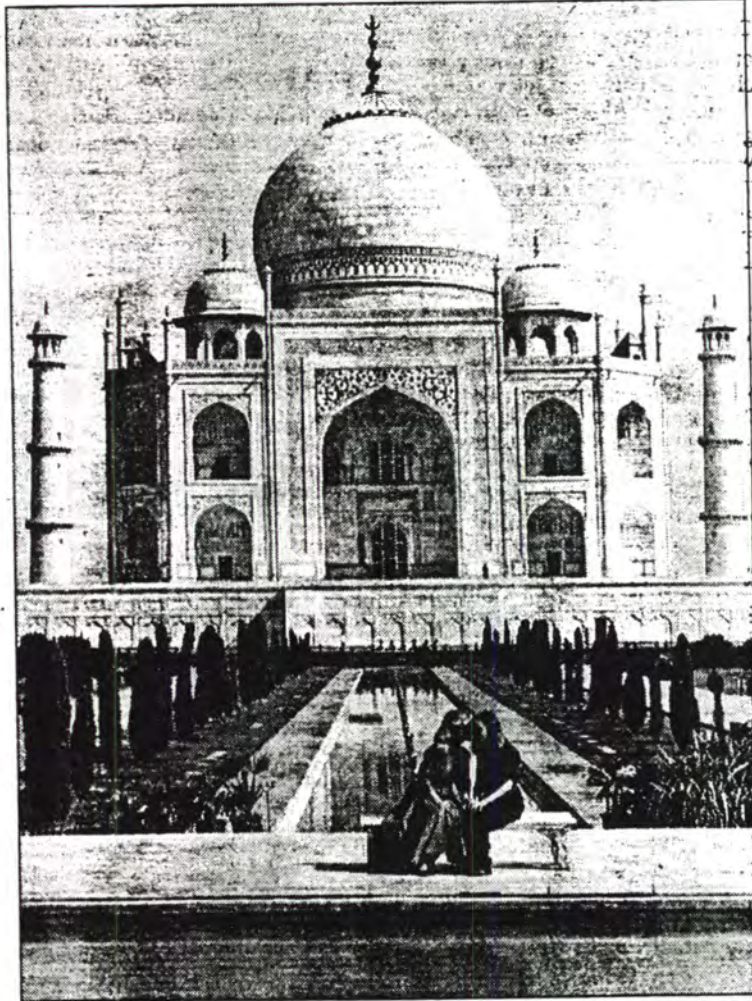
WORLD IN BRIEF



Associated Press

Who is that woman?

Hillary Rodham Clinton tries on a woven mask, given to her Wednesday by a craftsman at the Crafts Museum in New Delhi, India, during a stop on her tour of South Asia, where she is promoting education and health care for women.



AP photo

Peace and quiet: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, share a quiet moment Thursday on the grounds in front of the majestic Taj Mahal in Agra, India.

Hillary Clinton Talks to Group Of Working Women in India

AHMADABAD, India, March 31 (AP) — In a sweltering tent, Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke today with vegetable vendors, embroidery workers and other poor women who said they were no longer afraid to organize for better treatment in India's marketplace and society.

Mrs. Clinton's visit to the Self-Employed Women's Association could well be the defining moment of her 12-day tour of South Asia, a trip centered on promoting better health, education and opportunity for women and girls throughout the world.

"I will never forget what I have seen and heard and learned here today," Mrs. Clinton told a group of 200 women. "I know how this kind of solidarity and effort can change lives."

S.E.W.A. is a union of 143,000 women formed in 1972 to help those in the largely invisible "informal" economy of agricultural workers, vendors and other self-employed women. It was organized by 62-year-old Ela Bhatt, a follower of Mohandas K. Gandhi who wanted to ensure better treatment for the often oppressed, illiterate women who struggle to provide for their families.

From a modest beginning, the association has grown into the country's leading women's organization. It set up a bank that offers credit to women who otherwise could not get loans, organizes cooperatives to build up business and create jobs, offers skills training and health insurance and provides legal aid.

Mrs. Clinton, who first met Mrs. Bhatt at the White House last year, said the United States could learn from the association's example on expanding access to credit and other matters, and praised the group's efforts to give women "a better life without fear."

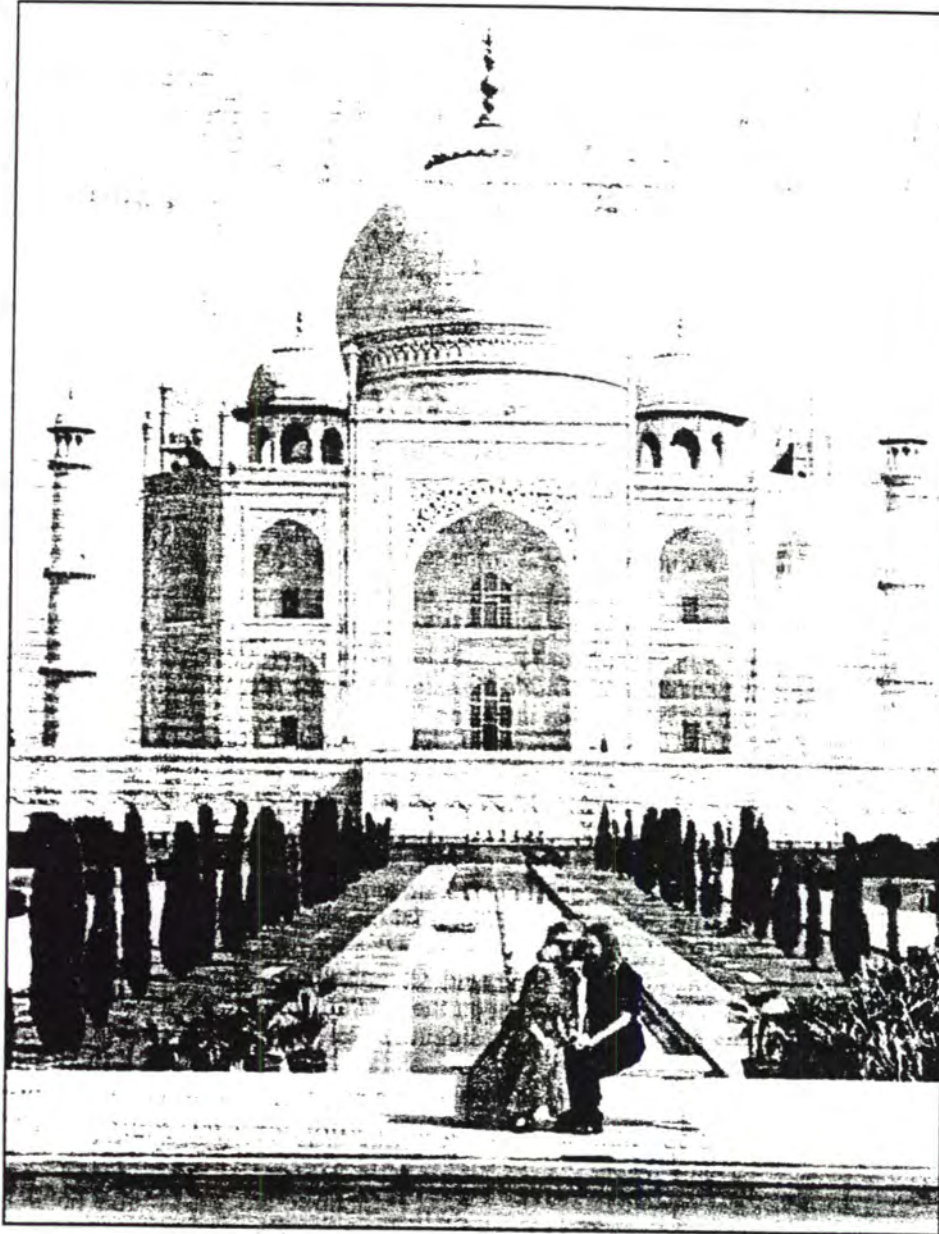
Earlier today, Mrs. Clinton laid a wreath at a monument to Gandhi and toured the Ahmadabad retreat where he lived from 1918 to 1930. She also toured the Taj Mahal with her 15 year-old daughter Chelsea. The 17th-century tomb was built by the Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to their 14th child.

On Friday Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to fly to Nepal. She has already visited Pakistan and is to visit Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1995 • 50 CENTS

Wrapped in beauty



Associated Press

Sharing a confidence: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (left) shares a quiet moment with daughter Chelsea on Thursday at the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. The two are on a 12-day tour of South Asia.

Friday, March 31, 1995 *****

The Atlanta Journal / The Atlanta Constitution

ASIA

■ **CLINTON TOUR:** Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit to the Self-Employed Women's Association in Ahmadabad, **India**, could be the defining moment of her 12-day tour of South Asia, a trip centered on promoting better health, education and opportunities for women and girls throughout the world. "I will never forget what I have seen and heard and learned here today," Clinton told a group of 200 women who eagerly shared their stories about the trade union of 143,000 women.

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1995



■ **GROWING UP**

Chelsea Clinton is having something of a coming-out party on an official visit to India with her mother. **Page 34.**

Mom's Trip Takes Chelsea Into Spotlight

BY MOLLY MOORE

WASHINGTON POST

AGRA, India—Chelsea Clinton at the Taj Mahal:

"When I was little, this was sort of the embodiment of the fairytale palace for me. I would see pictures of it and would dream I was a princess or whatever. Now that I'm here, it's spectacular."

Chelsea's fairy tale quickly and briefly exploded in the last week into a big nightmare for her mom's press secretary.

The press wanted to quote Chelsea's reaction to one of the world's best-known landmarks. No, absolutely not, said the protective press secretary, Lisa Caputo. Chelsea doesn't give interviews, doesn't answer questions and isn't quoted in the press. Eventually, under protest, she relented. This once, she said.

Despite White House characterizations to the contrary, Chelsea Clinton is having something of a coming-out party on a 12-day sweep across the subcontinent with her mother. She stands attentively and confidently at the first lady's side at almost every event.

She cuddled babies with Mom at Mother Teresa's orphanage. She sat beside Mom in a hot village square and listened to a poor Pakistani woman relate the

woes of having 10 children. She charmed tour guides with her insightful and informed questions.

In fact, on a carefully staged trip in which Hillary Rodham Clinton's official schedule revolves around women's and children's issues, Chelsea may be the most interesting untold story.

The Clintons have been rigorous in keeping their 15-year-old daughter out of the spotlight in an effort to allow her as normal a childhood as possible.

On this trip, the cameras have followed every move of mother and daughter, and Caputo has issued strict instructions for American coverage of Chelsea.

When she's with her mother, the events are on the record and can be reported. When she's not with her mother, the press traveling on the airplane with the Clintons cannot report on any of her activities.



AJIT KUMAR/SUN-TIMES

First lady Hillary Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, visit the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, Thursday.

As a result, the local press in New Delhi can report that Chelsea was seen at a popular local restaurant one night with students from the American school there, but reporters traveling on the plane cannot.

But far more important and in-

teresting is Chelsea's symbolic role: a young woman with a bright future standing before young South Asian women who may not be allowed to finish school because they are needed at home, who will be married off at a young age to boys they have never met and who will face lives of drudgery and misery.

Throughout Pakistan and India, young women have related enthusiastically to Chelsea as they accompany her through their schools, villages and homes.

On Thursday, she appeared at ease sitting amid a crowd of about 250 impoverished women—rag pickers, vegetable vendors and garment

makers—during a visit to a branch of the Self-Employed Women's Association, a union of poor working women.

Chelsea impressed a local official at a mosque in Islamabad with her knowledge of Islam.

At the Red Fort in Lahore, Pa-

kistan, she retained minute historical details that she later relayed to less attentive adults in the White House party.

And while the Chelsea of the first year of the administration often appeared intimidated by the crush of cameras and the curious stares that follow any of the Clintons wherever they go, she now takes it all in stride, casting frequent shy smiles toward the crowds.

According to local embassy officials throughout South Asia, Chelsea rejected a long list of "kid-oriented" programs offered at each of her mother's stops—such as puppet shows and appearances at local American schools—opting instead for the same tours, interviews and speeches the first lady is making.

The trip also has demonstrated a mother-daughter relationship between Hillary and Chelsea Clinton that would appear to be the envy of any mother: They are respectful and attentive to each other and seem to genuinely enjoy each other's company.

Still, teenagers will be teenagers the world over. What do inquiring young Indian girls with straight dark hair want to know about Chelsea?

Are her curly blond locks real or permed?

Answer: They're real.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1995

On the Road in Hillaryland

By TODD S. PURDUM

HERE in the shadows of Mount Everest this weekend, the burning questions are these: Will the world see America's No. 1 Democratic woman on that Republican icon, the elephant? And when Hillary Rodham Clinton sets out on a safari, who will win — the First Lady or the tiger?

Halfway through her 12-day official visit to South Asia, Mrs. Clinton has paused below the peak conquered by that other Hillary in search of a vanishing breed. So far, the view isn't bad. Mrs. Clinton's good will tour has been animated by an air of high moral purpose as she stresses the importance of educating women in a region that is home to some of the most oppressed, and most resourceful, women in the world. She has visited families, schools, a worker's union, government officials and even one of Mother Teresa's orphanages (yes, an orphanage).

The stream of photo-ops, shopping stops and short hops aboard the old Boeing 707 that serves as Air Force One and a Half has also produced its share of low comedy, as a planeload of White House aides and reporters joined Mrs. Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, on the journey into what the First Lady herself calls "Hillaryland." What follows is a strictly selective collection of impressions from along the way.

Candlesticks Are Nice

March 25. A refueling stop in Cairo turns into a surprise visit to the pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza, combining the serendipity of a trip to the Dairy Queen with the logistics of a Napoleonic campaign. The First Lady's entourage whizzes through downtown Cairo at midday with every intersection blocked off. Mrs. Clinton declines the offer of a camel ride, and a bit over two

hours later is back in the air.

March 26. A luncheon with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan in Islamabad begins a seemingly endless series of gift exchanges. Mrs. Clinton gives: a limited-edition crystal vase titled "Moon Over Arkansas" and a pair of silver candlesticks. Mrs. Clinton gets: two Victorian-style chairs with silver arms.

March 27. The First Lady meets a group of 16-to-20-year olds at the Islamabad College for Girls, where one offers a clear-eyed view of marriage. "You're never going to find the proper person or the ideal man," the girl says. "You have to be a lot more realistic." A few minutes later, Mrs. Clinton offers her own sober summary: "It's not a partnership that's 50-50. It's a partnership that's 100 percent and 100 percent, because that's what you have to give to it."

That's Entertainment

March 28. The traveling party is still agog from an official dinner the night before in the ruins of the red sandstone mogul fort at Lahore, Pakistan, where meandering paths were lit by thousands of tiny oil lamps and the entertainment included dancing camels. The glow fades just a bit when word spreads that the Secret Service had been worried about cobras in the garden.

March 29. After a day crowded with a speech on women's rights, a lunch with the Indian Prime Minister and an evening reception at the American Embassy in New Delhi, Mrs. Clinton undertakes a midnight economic development mission: She buys several chain-stitched rugs at the National Cottage Emporium in the Sheraton Hotel. The Kashmiri proprietor, Manzoor Wangnoo (a salesman straight from Central Casting) coins a new title worthy of a major Memsahib: "Her Ladyship." Mrs. Clinton's Deputy Chief of Staff, Melanne Verveer, becomes "Her Deputy Ladyship."

March 30. Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea visit the white marble meringue of a mausoleum that is the Taj



Associated Press

It was Saturday, so it must have been Egypt. During a refueling, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton visit Giza.

Inside, Chelsea says: "When I was little, this was sort of the embodiment of the fairy-tale palace for me. I would see pictures of it and would dream I was a princess or whatever. Now that I'm here it's spectacular."

Mrs. Clinton's press secretary, Lisa Caputo, plays a tape of the comment for reporters who did not hear it. But after television correspondents asked if Chelsea, whose privacy is zealously guarded by the White House and respected by reporters, will repeat the remarks on camera, Ms. Caputo declares the words off the record

altogether. After some pointed discussions about genies and bottles and a consultation with Mrs. Clinton, Ms. Caputo relents.

April 1. Bound in a few minutes for a safari in the Chitwan National Forest, aboard a fleet of lumbering elephants. No phone, no fax, some fuss. The quarry: the elusive and endangered royal Bengal tiger. The real trophy: a picture of Mrs. Clinton on an elephant. So far her office has resisted that. But the forest has a thousand eyes.

WORLD

Asia Tour Moves First Lady To Step Up Fight for Women

BY NANCY BENAC
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Winding up a 12-day journey through the Indian subcontinent, Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday the poverty and promise she saw along the way had reinforced her determination to help women gain a stronger voice.

Clinton said she and her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, came away "overwhelmed ... by the conditions that some of the people we saw and met were living in, but also very moved by how people were attempting to make the most of whatever situation they found themselves in."

Their travels through Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka took them from the grandeur of presidential palaces and the splendor of the Taj Mahal to the slums of New Delhi and the grit of remote villages.

Professional women told Clinton of the obstacles they had surmounted in this male-dominated society; vegetable vendors told of their yearning to send their daughters to school, she said.

"It's been a remarkable combination of experiences for me."

The first lady defended her decision to avoid confronting her hosts directly about widespread human rights abuses in the region, saying her effort to improve the lives of women and girls was itself a campaign for human rights.

"I don't think girls and women



JOHN GAPS III/ASSOCIATED PRESS

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, with daughter Chelsea (left), accepts flowers from a Sri Lanka girl on Tuesday shortly after arriving in Colombo. It is the last leg of their South Asia tour.

get as much attention on a regular basis as some of the well-publicized other instances of human rights concerns," she said. "I believe we have to emphasize as much as possible that the denial of education, the denial of basic health care, the

denial of basic choices to girls is a human rights issue."

The first lady spoke admiringly of lending and education programs she visited that give poor women "the confidence and courage to claim a life of their own."

The New York Times

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THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1995



Associated Press

Hillary Rodham Clinton, with her daughter, Chelsea, outside the Kelaniya Temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Hillary Clinton a Traditional First Lady Now

By TODD S. PURDUM

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 5 — A year ago, Hillary Rodham Clinton was visiting the biggest, most advanced hospitals in the Western world, proposing to change radically the way they did business. Last Friday, she sat in a tiny clinic in the shadows of the Himalayas and learned about its latest innovation: the "Safe Home Delivery Kit."

Inside a small cardboard box were the tools intended to reduce infant mortality in a country where more

than 10 percent of the 700,000 babies born each year die within 12 months: A plastic sheet to provide a sanitary surface, a bar of soap, a plastic disk to rest the umbilical cord on, a shiny razor blade to cut it and a clean cord to tie it.

The kit was a small step that might make a big difference, the kind Mrs. Clinton has witnessed over and over again on her 12-day goodwill tour of southern Asia, which ends today. It was also something of

a metaphor for the First Lady's newest role, for if Mrs. Clinton is still thinking globally, she is acting more locally than ever.

In stop after stop, she has played the traditional role of First Lady as wife and mother, emphasizing the importance of educating girls and women, with her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, almost constantly by her side.

She has dressed in long sleeves and ankle-length skirts to avoid offending Islamic sensibilities. At teas,

in speeches and visits to schools and hospitals, she has taken such pains to avoid old controversies that she actually created some new ones, leading The Calcutta Telegraph to dismiss her as "singularly insensate and solely decorative."

Mrs. Clinton elliptically acknowledged her shifting tone in an interview with reporters traveling with her here, as she reflected on her meetings with women ranging from untouchables and ragpickers to prime ministers and presidents like Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka.

"I think that you have to keep true to your own beliefs about what is important, and you have to say it over and over again," Mrs. Clinton said. "But you always have to be open to new ways of saying it that perhaps are understood better. And I think that is truly what's at stake in lots of these settings around the world."

But the First Lady rejected any suggestion that by emphasizing what she calls the "human issues" of women and children she had somehow forsaken the concerns about human rights and economic development that plague this part of the world.

"I think by talking about girls and women, you're talking about human rights," she said. "I think there's an absolute correlation there."

"I don't think girls and women get as much attention on a regular basis as some of the well-publicized other instances of human rights concerns, and I believe we have to emphasize as much as possible that the denial of education, the denial of basic health care, the denial of choices to girls is a human rights issue," she said. "Because it is the human potential that we are attempting to develop, and the denying of it, I think, does violence to the spirit of the person and to the larger community."

If Mrs. Clinton has sought to make any broader political point here, it is that a region often thought of as backward and hopeless has not only benefited greatly from American aid, which helped create programs like the Nepalese birthing kit, but that people here also have much to teach America and the world.

Before leaving Bangladesh on Monday, Mrs. Clinton toured the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, a pioneering hospital that developed an oral rehydration solution of salts, sugars and grains that saves an estimated one million lives a year worldwide among victims of cholera and diarrhea and that is much less costly than standard intravenous solutions used in the United States.

"Too many people at home don't know the positive results that come from investments like this, and don't know that something developed in Bangladesh can save lives in Louisiana," Mrs. Clinton said in an implicit rebuke of demands by some leading Congressional Republicans to scale back foreign aid.

Mrs. Clinton also said she hoped to find new ways to replicate models from here in the United States. Those include the microcredit lending of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, which makes loans to poor people with no collateral in exchange for proposals to generate income, to the Self-Employed Women's Association in India, which has organized poor women into unions of cigarette rollers and vegetable vendors and created its own bank.

Mrs. Clinton is honorary chairman of the American delegation to the fourth annual United Nations conference on women, to be held in Beijing in September, and she hopes to be able to go if United States-China relations remain stable. She said she hoped such efforts might produce an international consensus, a sort of declaration of principles on the rights of women, including access to education and credit.

"I think you could help create a consensus around some certain basic principles, staying off a lot of the political disputes that are going to be between nations and between groups of people," she said. "You know, even if there are disputes of a political nature, there ought to be some effort to work toward providing these basic opportunities."

But experience has shown that many voters tend to look askance when Mrs. Clinton plays too great a policy role in the day-to-day affairs of the Administration, and she doubtless will have to continue to walk a fine line between pretending she wields no influence and being seen as too powerful. It is a dilemma she is used to, and one that she suggested her exposure to women who have suffered great hardships in this part of the world has helped to place in perspective.

Mrs. Clinton Stresses Rights Of Women on Visit to India

At the end of her first visit to India and the South Asian region, Hillary Rodham Clinton left a positive imprint as she discreetly projected herself as an international face of a new women's movement for gender equity, Mayank Chhaya writes. During her visit, the first by a U.S. First Lady in over 30 years since President John F. Kennedy's wife visited India, Mrs. Clinton left no one in doubt that she wanted to be heard

seriously during the run-up to the women's summit in Beijing later this year. She traveled in an aircraft from the U.S. presidential fleet with an entourage of 60, including White House aides and security and Secret Service personnel.

The First Lady met with President Shankar Dayal Sharma and had a one-hour meeting with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao during which they discussed women's empowerment and economic reforms.

Mrs. Clinton lunched with women leaders and had a lively dialogue with a number of working women, ranging from roadside grocers to small-scale embroiderers, who have to struggle against heavy odds. Mrs. Clinton was so moved by a poem on women written by a Delhi college student that she quoted it at the end of her address at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies in Delhi.

The First Lady did not go through too many changes of clothes and avoided making any strong sartorial statement. She visited the Taj Mahal in Agra and the capital's exclusive crafts museum, where she was amused by a "whistling walking stick."

On the third leg of her South Asian journey, Mrs. Clinton devoted her time in Nepal to health care, specially for women and children, Ashok Easwaran writes.

Earlier, Pakistan brought up Kashmir and the Pressler amendment during Mrs. Clinton's visit to that country. Pakistan seemed to hope its views would reach President Clinton ahead of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's coming trip to the U.S., Tariq Butt writes.

Mrs. Clinton's South Asia trip, Ela Dutt writes, earned her the most favorable coverage in the American press since she arrived in Washington as the First Lady.



U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with President Shankar Dayal Sharma at the Presidential Palace in New Delhi on March 28. (Photo: Wide World)

India
Abroad
April 7,
1995

TOP OF THE WEEK

First Lady's Visit : Focus on Women

To Learn, Not Teach, and to Listen, Not Talk

By MAYANK CHHAYA

NEW DELHI

The visit was being seen here as more ceremonial than substance. But at the end of her maiden visit to India and this region, Hillary Rodham Clinton left a positive imprint as she discreetly projected herself as an international face of a new women's movement for gender equity.

However, contrary to news media speculation about the issues she would raise and even talk down to, the wife of the American President made it clear she was here to learn rather than teach and to listen rather than talk.

Although the visit — the first by a U.S. First Lady in over three decades since the visit by the wife of President John F. Kennedy — was spent more on understanding how women's issues are dealt with here, Mrs. Clinton did not leave anyone in doubt that she wanted to be heard seriously during the run-up to the women's summit conference in Beijing later this year. She found enough endorsement from India's leading women's rights champions, but more than that she received a lot of good advice from the country's seasoned campaigners.

Before her March 28-30 visit to India, spent in New Delhi and Ahmedabad, not much was expected to happen other than confirming her reputation as a "meddlesome" yet "credible" First Lady who exercises as much influence as her husband,

"It would have been like any other ceremonial visit had it not been for the fact that the U.S. administration attaches so much importance to her," said a senior official of the External Affairs Ministry.

President Bill Clinton. Even the choice of places that she was to visit, such as an orphanage run by Mother Teresa and a detailed 45-minute encounter with a trade union of women living and working on the margins of the Indian economy and society in Ahmedabad revealed her commitment to social and women's issues.

Ela Bhatt, founder of the union, the Self-Employed Women's Association, told *India Abroad*: "We had requested her not to take the line of giving aid during her visit here. We told her we don't need help of that kind. We asked that she should have a first-hand knowledge of how marginalized women, who are the core of the Indian economy, have organized themselves and offer a model to other countries including the U.S."

After her question-and-answer session with the union women, who included roadside greengrocers, small-time embroiders and other marginal workers, Mrs. Clinton seemed to have got a handle on an entirely different kind of activism.

Bhatt was asked if she got the sense that the First Lady was trying to build up a constituency for herself. she replied, "I don't know if she is trying to build up a political constituency, but she has certainly added a wholly new experience of activism by marginalized women to her thinking."

Her visit had some of the trappings of a state visit by a head of state. She came in an aircraft from the presidential fleet, a 707 once reportedly used by President Lyndon B. Johnson. She brought 60 people along, including White House aides and security and Secret Service personnel of about 60 people.

Two bulletproof special Cadillacs were also flown in. She was received at the airport by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Salman Khurshid, and the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Parliamentary Affairs, Margaret Alva. Alva was also her minister-in-waiting.

The First Lady had a one-hour meeting with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao during which they discussed women's empowerment and economic reforms. She also met with President Shankar Dayal Sharma. Sharma was her host at dinner and Rao gave her a special lunch.

Despite her reputation as having the U.S. President's ear on major policy issues, the Indian establishment did not quite attempt to talk bilateral diplomacy and politics with her.

"It would have been like any other ceremonial visit had it not been for the fact that the U.S. administration attaches so much importance to her," said a senior official of the External Affairs Ministry. But he said the visit provided a "welcome opportunity to enhance goodwill between the two countries."

He added that there was no attempt at talks on any of the critical issues between the two countries despite the presence in Mrs. Clinton's delegation of Robin Raphel, the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

Characteristically, the Indian response to the visit was in contrast to the reaction of the Pakistani government, which raised the Kashmir issue with her (see separate story). Contrary to news media speculations in the U.S., Mrs. Clinton completely avoided critical and sensitive issues such as human rights.

"She came with a clear idea of advancing her knowledge about ways to deal with women's issues, and the government is not keen to any other dimension to her visit," said one official. It was a measure of the non-controversial nature of her visit that only protocol officials were involved in it.

Quite evidently, Mrs. Clinton's main agenda lay outside government. Her speech at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation focused on women. She said she considered women "central to our common future."

"Women represent over half of the world's population," she said, "and yet in country after

country they lack access to education, to health services, to jobs, to political and civil rights...One lesson the experience of the last several decades teaches us is that where women prosper, countries prosper."

She linked issues related to women and children to the overall good of society, noting that very often such issues are dismissed as "soft."

"I want to argue strongly that the questions surrounding social development, especially women...are at the center of our political and economic challenges."

To applause from the elite audience, she announced that India would be the first country to benefit from the \$100 million U.S. aid for girls and women's initiative launched at the recent Social Summit in Copenhagen.

Then she took everyone by surprise by departing from her prepared text to read out a poem, called "Silence," written by a Delhi University undergraduate which mirrored the silent suffering of women.

The First Lady's comment at the meeting of the self-employed women's union meeting in Ahmedabad, about the time having arrived for women to break their long silence, was loudly applauded by the audience. At the union meeting Mrs. Clinton got into the mechanics of making a trade union movement targeted at marginalized women for larger societal good.

The overall impression among those who had a chance to meet her was remarkably upbeat and even flattering. Many of them thought, notwithstanding many jokes about it, that she has perhaps better presidential material than her husband.

Kartikaya Sarabhai, an environmentalist and trustee of the Gandhi Ashram, who met with her, said "she has got the stuff [to become president]." Sarabhai's sister Mallika, a dancer-choreographer

She linked issues related to women and children to the overall good of society, noting that very often such issues are dismissed as "soft."

and a publisher who attended Mrs. Clinton's luncheon, also thought that she had what it took to be a president. Mallika Sarabhai told Mrs. Clinton that she looked forward to her becoming the first stateswoman in the U.S.

Jaya Arunachalam, a prominent women's campaigner from Madras, also seemed to think the First Lady could make a good president but said she did not seem inclined to run for that office. Instead Arunachalam thought Mrs. Clinton was very keen to see that the declaration of the Beijing women's summit should produce a specific one-page document that could be internationally relevant (see separate story).

The more salutary aspect of her journey was a visit to Mother Teresa's orphanage in Old Delhi and "Prayas" (endeavor), a school for integrated child development run on the campus of the Indian Institute of Technology.

At the orphanage Mrs. Clinton spent half an hour talking to nuns about the children. "They are all very beautiful children," she said even as an American television reporter muttered to himself that "they look like animals in cages." The orphanage takes care of 167 children and saves them from a life of destitution.

The First Lady's experience at the Prayas was somewhat different. About 25 children dressed in brightly colored clothes danced to welcome her. There were charts and graphs about the school, including the need for fans and computers. The school, run by Roshni Misra, has 200 children, many of them disabled.

The school was little known before Mrs. Clinton's visit. Its choice was largely dictated by the fact that wives of American residents and diplomats do some voluntary work there.

"The school is a marvelous example of how people working together can take care of one another," Mrs. Clinton said.

Her five-nation South Asian tour of Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka was aimed, she said, at finding out the problems of people in this part of the world, especially women. She said President Clinton had wanted her to gain first-hand information about the work done by non-governmental groups in issues related to women and children.

Since January 1978, when President Jimmy Carter visited India, no U.S. President has come to this part of the world. It was not clear if sending the First Lady was President Clinton's way of making up to a region that accounts for one-sixth of the world's population.



US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, at the Prime Minister's house in New Delhi, on Wednesday, March 29, during her visit to India. (Photo: Ramesh)



Mrs. Clinton with Sonia Gandhi, chairperson of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. Mrs. Clinton quoted a poem on women by a Delhi college student during her address to the foundation in New Delhi on March 29. (See story on page 6). (Photo: PTI)



In keeping with the holiness and tradition at the Mahatma Gandhi shrine, Hillary Clinton and her daughter Chelsea walked on bare feet inside the shrine complex in Ahmedabad, Thursday, March 30. Shrine official at right was unidentified. At center is a portrait of Gandhi. (Photo: Wide World)

Poem Moves F. Lady

By a Staff Writer

NEW DELHI — Hillary Rodham Clinton was so moved by a college student's poem on women that she quoted it at the end of her address at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies here.

"I have never seen a better description of the reason why women's silence must end than in a poem I received from Meenakshi Copinath, the principal of Lady Sri Ram College in New Delhi," Mrs. Clinton said.

The poem, "Silence," was written by Anasuya Sengupta of the class of 1995. It follows:

*Too many women in too many countries
speak the same language — of silence. My
grandmother was always silent, always appropri-
ed. Only her husband had the cosmic right (or
so it was said) to speak and be heard.*

*They say it is different now (after all, I am
always vocal and my grandmother thinks I talk
too much), but sometimes I wonder.*

*When a woman gives her love, as most do
generously, it is accepted. When a woman
shares her thoughts, as some women do gra-
ciously, it is allowed. When a woman fights for
power, as all women would like to, quietly or
loudly, it is questioned.*

*And yet, there must be freedom if we are to
speak. And yes, there must be power if we are to
be heard. And when we have both (freedom and
power), let us not be misunderstood.*

*We seek only to give words to those who can-
not speak (too many women in too many coun-
tries). I seek only to forget the sorrows of my
grandmother's silence.*

Sengupta is studying for an economics degree and is in the final year of her three-year course.

TOP OF THE WEEK

First Lady's Visit : Focus on Women

Rewarding Talks With Poor Working Women

By MAYANK CHHAYA

AHMEDABAD

A trade union of women living and working on the margins of society offered Hillary Rodham Clinton more solutions to gender issues than she had expected.

The First Lady had what might have been the most substantive part of her five-nation South Asian tour during a lively, 45-minute dialogue with women who usually get a raw deal from an inherently unfair system.

Ranging from roadside grocers to small-scale embroiderers, they engaged her in what she described as a highly educational discussion.

The Self-Employed Women's Association (Sewa, meaning service in many Indian languages) was repeatedly defined by Mrs. Clinton as holding answers to many problems related to women that she and President Clinton were trying to address in the United States.

She said: "The word about your work has traveled very far to Arkansas, the state that my husband, the President, and I come from. We have followed what Sewa has done in creating credit opportunities for poor women. The President wants to extend that to poor women all over the U.S."

During a question session, Mrs. Clinton was asked by Rahima Sheikh, a Sewa official, what had inspired her to visit India. She replied:

"Ever since I was my daughter's age, I've wanted to come to India, and the opportunity came when my husband asked me to visit and find out about issues related to women and children, and whether we can learn something from the way you deal with these issues. I wanted to see women in India through Sewa."

What she saw in the form of brief presentations by Sewa volunteers "impressed and pleased" her. She said that "we in the U.S. need to catch up with Sewa," upon which the women in the audience, many of them illiterate, applauded her.

Ela Bhatt, founder of Sewa and a pioneer in organizing women at the lower end of the economy, said: "Poor women are central to the economy of our country, society and family. Our 20 years of experience says that women are capable of taking the lead in fighting poverty, of running economic organizations viably. Women are good investments, bankable, highly creditworthy, have a proven track record of excellence everywhere they have had opportunity and access."

"If we believe that productive employment is the key to combat poverty and social marginalization, then poor women are the answer, because among the poor, all women work whether paid or not."

Bhatt, who has received the prominent Magsaysay Award for her work, founded Sewa in 1972 as a trade union to mobilize women in the unorganized and informal sector of the economy. The sector, according to Sewa, encompasses 94 percent of the female working population.

The organization has a membership of 143,000 women, two-thirds of them from rural parts of Gujarat.

Among Sewa's major accomplishments is winning official recognition of women in these sectors as workers, and therefore entitling them to minimum wages and other benefits, something they had previously not received.

Other achievements include the creation of a bank that lends marginalized women modest credits to become economically independent, and providing a minimum legal education.

Sewa has pioneered such concepts as social security that means health care, child support and housing as part of full employment. Many of these ideas seemed to capture Mrs. Clinton's attention.

Bhatt told *India Abroad* that Mrs. Clinton had seemed interested in replicating some of the ideas in the U.S., specifically a community bank for the poor.

"We also spoke about health care, and I told her about self-financed health cooperatives that we run," Bhatt added. "We discussed migration from the rural areas to the urban and ways to stop that."

Mrs. Clinton said the problems that women faced were the same all over the world, and there was a need for consolidated action. At one point, she asked the women of Sewa what the organization had done for them.

Bashiruddin Bibi, a volunteer, replied: "We used to be scared of our husbands, mothers-in-law, police, government. We could not deal with any of these, but now we know how to stand up and fight for our rights."

The reply seemed to go down well with the First Lady, who said that many of the things Bibi had mentioned applied to women all over the world, and that Sewa's experiences could be crucial in dealing with them.

Mrs. Clinton was also asked about the high divorce rate in the U.S. and what it meant to children. She answered: "It's a very important question. It's true that 50 percent of our marriages end in divorce."

In many cases, she added, couples work out settlements that take care of the children, but when that is not done, the government wants to enforce penalties, such as canceling the driver license or work permit.

She also conceded that divorce was a serious problem with a bearing on American society.

Her four-hour visit was essentially to meet Sewa and visit the Gandhi ashram on the banks of the Sabarmati River. It was built in 1917, two years after Gandhi returned from South Africa. Many of his political, cultural, religious and economic ideas were refined there.

Mrs. Clinton appeared aware that she was at one of modern India's most important monuments.

She took off her shoes, a practice followed by visitors before going inside the rooms in which Gandhi lived and worked for 12 years.

Trustees of the ashram said she was moved by Gandhi's simplicity. She was given a plaque of the main cottage, Hriday Kunj, and a set of nearly a dozen books, many of them written by Gandhi and three, including "Gandhi on Women" and "The Mind of Mahatma Gandhi," by others.

Kartikaya Sarabhai, an environmentalist and a

trustee of the ashram, who received the visitor, said she did not come as a tourist, but as a "pilgrim who knew what she was looking at." He and his sister, Mallika, had met Mrs. Clinton separately at a luncheon in Delhi. He said she seemed well read on Gandhi and his philosophy.

"She knew the significance of his work and noted how leaders all over the world, including Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, had been influenced by Gandhi," he said. "She noted the universality of Gandhi's idea of nonviolence."

It was estimated that more than 100,000 people lined the road on Mrs. Clinton's six-kilometer (3.7-mile) drive from the ashram to Sewa's headquarters in central Ahmedabad, something she did not see in New Delhi.

At Sewa, she was made honorary holder of a savings account in the cooperative all-woman bank

and given a passbook that had her photograph and listed her vocation as lawyer and address as the White House. She and her daughter, Chelsea, were also given hand-embroidered wall hangings.

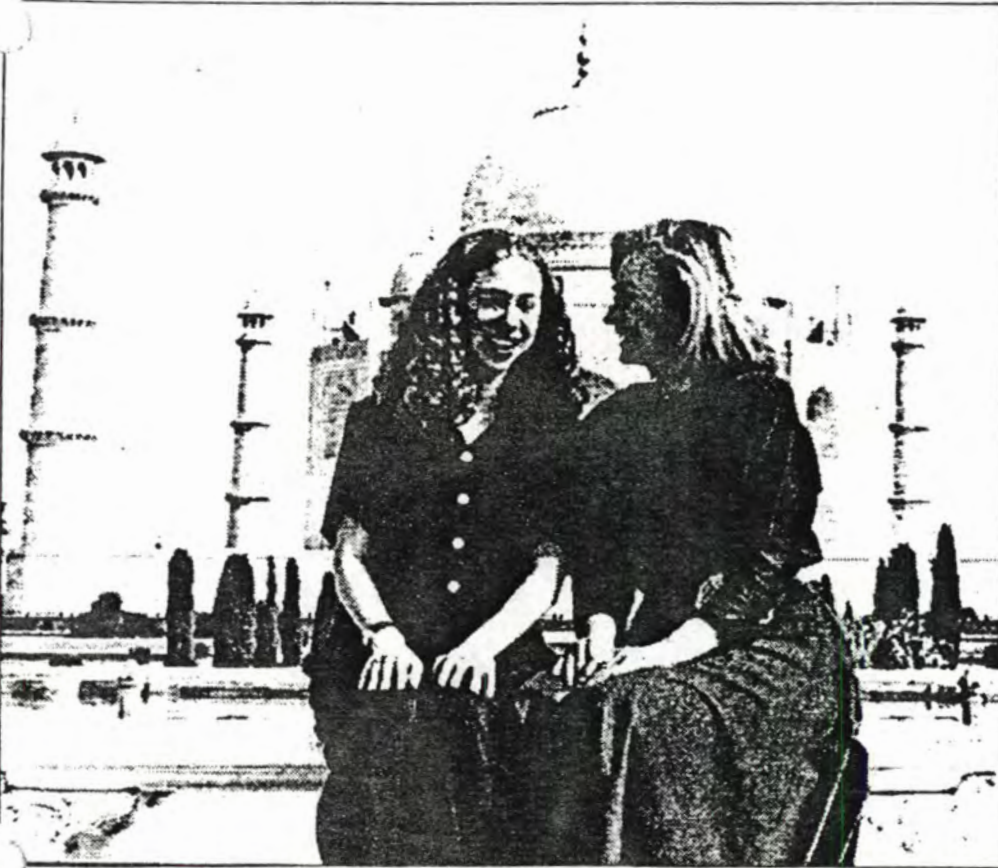
Mrs. Clinton seemed overwhelmed by the reception. She said:

"I will never forget what I have seen here and learned. Your faces, your beautiful clothes in all the colors of the rainbow. I will have lots of stories of your lives to tell when I go back."

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Hillary Clinton greets members of the Self Employed Women's Association, in Ahmedabad on Thursday, March 30. Mrs. Clinton addressed the gathering and hoped that women in the US start a similar organization as SEWA. (Photo: Wide World)



Hillary Clinton, right, and daughter Chelsea share a moment on a visit to the world famous 17th century Taj Mahal in Agra, some 124 miles south of New Delhi, on Thursday, March 30. According to a source, the trip was educative for Chelsea. She learned about one of the most ancient civilizations. (Photo: Wide World)

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Mrs. Clinton's South Asia Trip Earns Favourable U.S. Press

By ELA DUTT

WASHINGTON

Mrs. Clinton's South Asia trip earned her significantly favorable coverage in the American press. Most papers, even as they interpreted the trip as an attempt to reclaim some of her lost glory, credited her with having long espoused children's and women's welfare in the United States.

The coverage began as she took off on March 26. The *Washington Post* printed a long article in its "Outlook" section, entitled "Jewel in the Town." It was written by Elizabeth Bumiller, author of the book, "May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Sons."

Meeting Ela Bhatt, president of the Self-Employed Women's Association based in Ahmedabad, indicated that the organizers planned the right itinerary for her, Bumiller wrote.

"When 150,000 poor Indian women can organize and save, what does it mean for America?" she asked. "Everything. At a time when the U.S. is trying to end welfare as it now exists, Sewa provides a model."

It is through empowerment and control over their lives that entrepreneurship is generated, she added.

Bhatt, who had met Mrs. Clinton previously, was reported to have said that the First Lady was a serious person. In her typically earthy style, the activist leader was quoted as adding:

"Whatever questions she asks, you can tell that she is listening to your answers. Not like all those politicians whose minds are somewhere else."

A strike led by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce the day Mrs. Clinton landed in Islamabad was the subject of an article in the *Los Angeles Times*.

As the First Lady landed in a pouring rain, the strike crippled major cities, the paper reported. It said the federation's leader had been dismissed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that day, and security forces were rounding up businessmen who had accused the government of not listening to their pleas to restore order in violence-ridden Karachi.

Mrs. Clinton appeared to be untouched by all that, however, as she lunched with the rich and powerful and visited a village, as evident by photographs and articles in the *Post*, the *Washington Times*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times* on March 28.

"Mrs. Clinton finds kindred spirit in Bhutto," said a headline in the *Los Angeles Times*. An accompanying article said that even though a woman was at the helm in Pakistan, activists in Pakistan accused Bhutto of a lack of effort to improve the lot of women.

Both women leaders, it added, share the experience of being criticized for taking an aggressive leadership role.

The article also cited Administration officials as saying that in Pakistan they were seeking to demonstrate respect for Islam and to make clear that Americans did not equate the Muslim faith with extremism or terrorism.

Mrs. Clinton had a scarf over her head, visited a mosque and she and Chelsea wore the traditional Pakistani salwar (pants) kameez (loose shirt).

The *Post* article on March 27 highlighted what it saw as the trip's attempt to put a more human face on U.S. foreign policy in the troubled region. It also contended that the trip to India was an idea that had been pushed by Elizabeth Moynihan, wife of Senator Daniel Moynihan of New York and former Ambassador to India.

In the State Department protocol, however, Mrs. Clinton "could not visit India without calling on India's neighbor and longtime enemy, Pakistan," said the writer of the article, Molly Moore said.

Chelsea, 15, appeared to have stolen some of the limelight with intelligent questions on Islam.

The *New York Times*, which ran a story on the visit almost every day, said Mrs. Clinton was a "study in the subtle role of spouse without portfolio."

Even though Bhutto was said to have raised the issues of the Pressler amendment, human rights and nonproliferation in their private meetings, Mrs. Clinton steered clear of them, emphasizing that they were matters to be discussed by the Pakistani leader when she came to Washington this month.

On March 28, most papers were carrying pictures rather than in-depth articles, except for the *Washington Times* and the *Boston Globe*. The first printed a 12-inch article, headed "First Lady Makes a Pitch for Women," with pictures of Mrs. Clinton, Chelsea, and Bhutto in silken clothes and enjoying a dinner.

It had a few funny sidelights, as when asked by a student if she had a nickname, Mrs. Clinton said: "It depends on who you talk to. Some people, I would imagine, have quite rude nicknames for me."

The March 28 *Miami Herald* had a photo of Mrs. Clinton at Lahore's Burki village, as did the *Los Angeles Times*. The *Chicago Tribune* had a short notice of her arrival in New Delhi. But the *Globe* carried a long article on details of the visit.

The next day the *Post* looked behind the scenes at the India and Pakistan visits — how residents of Burki were pushed out of sight by security forces, how Old Delhi's busiest streets was deserted, and how babies in Mother Teresa's orphanage were outfitted with American pampers and newly-stitched, floral pinafores.

It then added: "Nothing has matched the spectacle created by the Pakistani government officials at a farewell dinner staged at the 12th-century Lahore Fort."

In its March 31 issue, the *Post* had a headline, "The First Daughter's Passage through India." It said the American press was forbidden to report on any of Chelsea's activities when she was on her own, only when she was with her mother.

On March 30, the *New York Times* appeared to be emotional about the poem an Indian schoolgirl wrote for the First Lady. Mrs. Clinton not only recited the whole poem, entitled "Silence," but found a resonance in it for what she felt to be her often-misunderstood role as First Lady in this country.

In an accompanying speech, she announced that a new 10-year international aid program for educating women would come to India. But the amount was a modest \$500,000.

The First Lady traveled with an entourage of senior aides, almost all of women, the *New York Times* reported, and the group, it said, felt like a combination of a fun-loving sorority blended with a graduate seminar on the responsibilities of sisterhood.

The paper picked up an *Associated Press* report from Ahmedabad in its March 31 issue that found Mrs. Clinton under a sweltering tent talking to women vegetable vendors, embroidery workers and other of the poor, who told her they were no longer afraid to organize for better treatment in the marketplace and society.

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Crafts and Fare of the Country Give Delight

By MAYANK CHHAYA

NEW DELHI

Hillary Clinton, during her three days in this country, had occasional encounters with things peculiarly Indian — food, handicrafts or ordinary people — and she seemed to enjoy every bit of it. At the capital's exclusive Crafts Museum, which she visited on March 29, she was quite amused by a "whistling walking stick." The stick, made by a rural artisan, was hollow and would make a whistling sound when wielded. Mrs. Clinton swirled it several times and even asked the American media people to try it out.

At the museum she was also presented with an exquisitely woven mat by an artisan from Midnapore in West Bengal. The mat, with a light shade of green, was so finely woven that it could pass as a sari. Mrs. Clinton was highly impressed by the workmanship.

Her journey into India began with a particularly effusive welcome at the capital's Maurya Sheraton Hotel, which has lately come to specialize in hosting dignitaries, the last being U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. The 500-room hotel had nearly 100 rooms spread over three floors reserved for the first lady's entourage.

She was hosted in the hotel's most expensive suite, Chandragupta, named after the famous Indian king of the ancient Maurya period. The two-bedroom suite, that costs Rs. 24,000 a night (about \$770), was specially done up to suit Mrs. Clinton's "genteel" tastes, as one hotel spokesman described it. The 16th floor suite, which overlooks Delhi's thick green cover, has a lot of rust, off-white, "autumn" colors.

It had paisley patterned curtains and upholstery and the artifacts were typically bronze of the Chola age. There were the customary personalized stationary and light yellow bathrobes with her full name inscribed on it. There were a lot of white and yellow flowers, including lilies.

There was no official confirmation from the hotel about the bill that the First Lady's entourage may have run up. But at an average of \$240 a room, exclusive of taxes, and food and drinks and other related expenses, the total could have been well between \$35,000 to \$50,000 for three nights. But sources in the hotel said very often dignitaries are offered hefty discounts.

"If normal guests were to occupy these rooms the hotel would have earned more,"

said Sona Adhikari, the hotel's public relations manager. "But with dignitaries money is not the consideration. What matters is our reputation."

Knowing Mrs. Clinton's reported liking for so-called "junk food," the hotel had stored a lot of crackers, chips, colas and so on. "But she did not touch any of it," Adhikari said. "Her meals came from the American Embassy. Even her breakfasts, which typically included croissants, had to be kept for 72 hours under instructions from her security staff before she could eat them."

What apparently prompted the First Lady to have at least one meal at the hotel's famous Bukhara restaurant was a word from her daughter Chelsea.



A traditional Indian drummer played for Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea during their tour of the Crafts Museum market in New Delhi, on Wednesday March 29. Inside the museum she was amused by a "whistling walking" stick made by a rural artisan. (Photo: Wide World)

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who had eaten there earlier. Mrs. Clinton's menu was small but choice. It included sikhadri raan or marinated leg of lamb, murg malai kebab or butter chicken kebab, daal bukhara or buttered black lentil and nan bukhara or giant sized nans. The single main course was followed by firni or rice pudding, which she particularly enjoyed, declining tea or coffee because she wanted to savor its taste a little longer. She went inside the hotel kitchen and inquired about the tandoor or

clay oven and the Indian way of cooking with the chef, Madan Lal Jaiswal.

Mrs. Clinton did not go through too many changes of clothes and she certainly stayed away from making any strong sartorial statement.

One point that many Indians, including some who met her, made was how "utterly young" she looked. On the day she visited the Taj Mahal in Agra, she wore a pink frock that prompted one guest to make the compliment, "The dress enhanced her figure enough for most people to notice it."

Chelsea, on the other hand, mixed with people of her age. She had a detailed three-hour tour of the Rashtrapati Bhavan or India's Presidential palace, along with granddaughters of President Shankar Dayal Sharma. Chelsea went through a veritable treasure trove of gifts that the occupants of the palace have received over the years and which are displayed in more than 100 rooms. She also struck up a friendship with Priyanka, Rajiv Gandhi's daughter.

One source, closely monitoring the visit, told *India Abroad*, "For Chelsea this trip has been full of education. She has learned a great deal about one of the most ancient civilizations, albeit fleetingly."



First Lady Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea hold orphaned children during a tour of the Mother Teresa Orphanage in New Delhi on March 28. (Photo: Wide World).

Bhutto Raises the Kashmir Issue With Guest

By TARIQ BUTT

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan brought up Kashmir and the Pressler amendment with Hillary Rodham Clinton on her visit, hoping that its views would reach President Clinton ahead of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's coming trip to the U.S.

"We attach great importance to Mrs. Clinton's visit, which has created warmth and goodwill in Pakistan-U.S. relations," said Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmad Ali. "It has created a good environment on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to the U.S."

Most of the First Lady's engagements on the two-day trip (March 26-27) were cultural, social and nonpolitical. She tried to get across to the maximum number of people in the short time.

She watched cultural shows, met politicians, academics and women leaders in different spheres, and visited schools, a basic health unit and historical places in Islamabad and Lahore.

However, during a 20-minute meeting, Bhutto briefed her on "human rights violations in Indian-administered" Kashmir.

"There is a dire need to resolve the core issue of Kashmir between the two South Asian neighbors," Bhutto was quoted as telling her guest.

Another issue Bhutto touched on was the U.S. refusal, as a result of the Pressler amendment, to deliver 38 F-16 aircraft, for which Pakistan had paid over \$1.2 billion dollars.

Of the amendment, she said: "It is a blunt instrument and has not served the purpose. Therefore, it should go. Washington should either deliver the equipment or return the money."

At the same time, Ali emphasized that the visit "will create a better awareness among the U.S.

Administration and the people of the U.S. about Pakistan and its problems."

Mrs. Clinton made no public comment on any political, regional or international issue. She stayed clear of the problem areas, playing the role of a goodwill ambassador.

Bhutto apprised her of steps taken by the Pakistan government to undo institutional discrimination against women, improve conditions for children, improve health facilities and involve women in development activity.

Mrs. Clinton said: "What Mrs. Bhutto has done to recognize the great potential of this country as being tied with the great potential of its women is something that makes common sense and is giving all of us hope that as we invest in women and girls, we invest in men, we invest in the future, we invest in our society."

Pakistani officials hoped that Mrs. Clinton would convey to her husband what she had heard and the impressions she had gathered from her meetings here, and influence the President's opinion and U.S. policies toward Pakistan.

The killing of two American staffers of the U.S. consulate in Karachi by unidentified gunmen two weeks before her visit had embarrassed Pakistan. It was feared that Mrs. Clinton would put off her visit. That she did not was seen by officials as signaling Washington's desire for good relations.

The visit caused much excitement. Although Mrs. Clinton holds no public office, her trip was well covered by the media.

Many people who did not know much about Mrs. Clinton sought to compare her with the late Jacqueline Kennedy, who visited Pakistan 33 years ago.



First Lady Hillary Clinton, with daughter Chelsa, far left, looking on, receives flower on her arrival in Bangladesh capital Dhaka on April 2. (Photo: Wide World).

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Visit to a Bangla Self-Help Project

By ERSHADUL HUQ

DHAKA

Hillary Rodham Clinton told poor Bangladeshi women on the fourth leg of her South Asian swing that "I believe very strongly that it is important for women to earn their own income even when they are married."

The U.S. First Lady drove to Rishipara, a poor Hindu settlement 10 kilometers north of Jessore, in southwestern Bangladesh, after arriving here from Kathmandu on April 2. She wanted to see for herself how a self-sustaining program of community lending to the poor by the Grameen Bank (literally meaning village bank) has lifted hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis out of abject poverty to dignified self-sufficiency.

By visiting this town in the interior of Bangladesh, Mrs. Clinton was paying tribute — not only for herself but also for her husband, President Bill Clinton — to a path-breaking institution and its creator, Dr. Muhammad Yunus. He has become something of a legend in his country and has also been praised abroad for his work.

The bank is a private institution completely owned by its two million impoverished members. Already the envy of leading bankers, its approach to lending has caught on in many countries around the world. It has been replicated in President Clinton's home state of Arkansas in the shape of the Good Faith Fund, started at Pine Bluff.

Grameen was also the model for Chicago's South Shore Bank, which is a pioneer of urban

development loans in the U.S. for the deprived. Last year the United States Congress voted \$ 33 million to help set up Grameen-type small community enterprises all over the country.

In Rishipara, illiterate women belonging to families of tanners got loans from 4,000 taka to 6,000 taka (\$100 to \$150), which have been used for income-generating activities like buying livestock and poultry, selling milk and eggs, and other village businesses. The profits have been enough to repay the loan with something to spare.

Mrs. Clinton said she would go back to work to earn her own income when her husband leaves the office of President.

"My husband is the President of the U.S., I am not earning my own income," she said. "I started work when I was 13 years old and always earned my own income. There were some years when my income was more than my husband's."

The First Lady said she was happy to learn that many of the poor women she has seen, whose husbands left them because they had brought insufficient dowries, were reunited now that they were generating incomes for their families.

She said she was also gratified to learn that women, once on the receiving end of social and religious biases, now had representation in government councils and were involved in policy-making. "This is very important and it will benefit you in the long run," she told them.

Mrs. Clinton was to go to Sri Lanka on April 5 on the last leg of her South Asian tour.

Meeting With the Man She's Named After

By Reuters

KATHMANDU

Hillary Clinton met on April 2 the man for whom she is named — mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of Mount Everest.

The wife of U.S. President Bill Clinton, who is on a South Asian goodwill tour, was greeted by Hillary, 75, at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport when she arrived to take a plane out of Nepal after a three-day stay.

She flew to Dhaka for a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Hillary Clinton, 47, told reporters in Nepal that her mother, Dorothy Rodham, read an article about Hillary while she was pregnant and that explained the unusual spelling of her name.

"She read an article in 1947 and that was before he climbed Everest. So when I was born, she called me Hillary and she always told me it was because of Sir Edmund Hillary," she said.

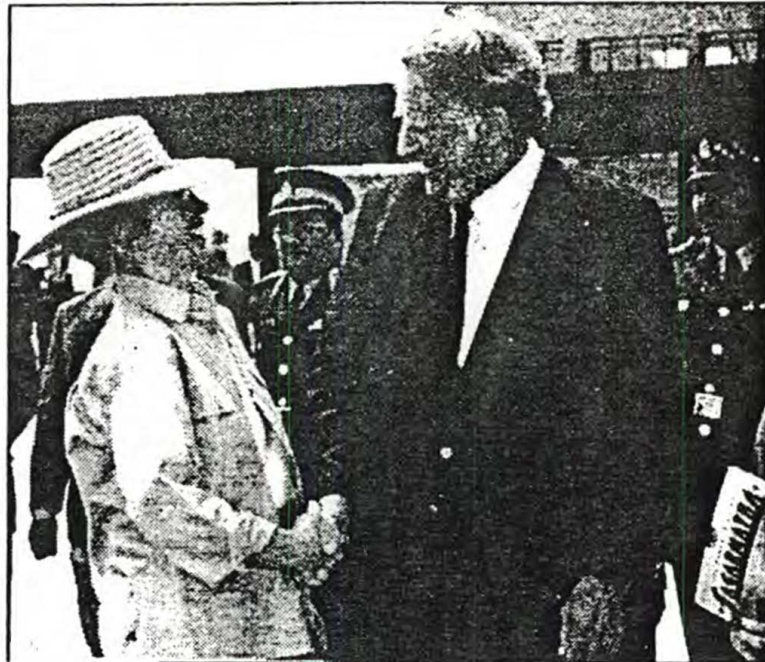
Sir Edmund said it was "sheer coincidence" that their paths had happened to cross. The soft-spoken adventurer runs a foundation that builds schools and clinics in the Himalayas and he had come to Nepal on a visit.

The New Zealander, who climbed the world's highest peak in 1953, saying he had done so "because it was there," noted that Hillary Clinton's fame now exceeded his own.

"In America before, if anybody recognized the name Hillary it was always me, and now they say, 'Oh, you must be a lady,'" he said.

Hillary Clinton, whose journey with her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea began last week with Pakistan and India, relaxed on a weekend safari in Nepal's Royal Chitwan game preserve planned as a respite from the 12-day tour.

She and Chelsea rode an elephant on an excursion into jungle where rare Bengal tigers roam and dined by kerosene lantern at a camp with only one telephone and no electricity.



First Lady Hillary Clinton meets Sir Edmund Hillary, one of the first two men to climb Mount Everest, at the Kathmandu airport on April 2. Mrs. Clinton met Hillary while she was leaving Nepal and as he was arriving. (Photo: Wide World).

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Focus on Nepal Women's Health

By ASHOK EASWARAN

KATHMANDU

On the third leg of her South Asian journey, Hillary Rodham Clinton devoted her time in this Himalayan kingdom to health care, specially for women and children.

She had a packed schedule, with receptions by King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya, and a meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikari, who heads Nepal's first Communist government, and the city's elite.

Her greatest interest was in women's organizations and projects run by them.

Soon after her arrival, Mrs. Clinton dropped in at the Kalimati Clinic run by local women and supported by a volunteer group, American Women of Nepal, consisting of wives of U.S. diplomats.

Nepal, it could be sold throughout South Asia, officials said.

The First Lady appeared impressed by the kit. In conversations with health officials, she praised the women's spirit of enterprise.

"Something like this, as we know around the world, can make an enormous difference if it is available," she said.

Nepal, one of the poorest countries according to the World Health Organization, suffers from a high infant mortality rate, largely due to unsafe birth practices. Nepalese women have a maternal mortality of about 850 per 100,000, officials here said.

Mrs. Clinton is the first First Lady to visit Nepal. She and her daughter, Chelsea, were received at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport by Queen Aishwarya and Princess Shruti. Chelsea seemed to hit



Mrs. Clinton is welcomed by Nepal's Communist Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari at his office in Singa Darbar in Kathmandu on March 31. The Himalayan kingdom of Nepal is the third nation the first Lady visited on her South Asia tour. (Photo: Wide World).

She inaugurated the distribution of a "safe birth kit." Said to be easy to use, it consists of basic materials needed in the home, where most Nepalese births occur, and is designed to help family members and traditional birth attendants insure that the mother and child stay well after delivery.

According to officials here, Mrs. Clinton was pleased that the kits were produced by a company operated by Nepalese women. If successful in

it off with Shruti and was seen in an animated conversation with her.

Mrs. Clinton visited the Dwanika Hotel, owned by one of Nepal's few women entrepreneurs, where she met women politicians, entrepreneurs and leaders of prominent nongovernmental organizations. In a relaxed atmosphere, she listened as they described their personal experiences in rising to the top of their professions and the challenges that women in Nepal faced.

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Women Activists Get a Favorable Impression

By MAYANK CHHAYA

NEW DELHI

Hillary Rodham Clinton, on her visit, was treated to a variety of Indian women activists who were assertive, poised and self-assured.

Her luncheon meeting with 12 women leaders may have influenced the First Lady's perspective on issues relating to women and children more than she anticipated.

Some of the women at the luncheon hosted by Ambassador Frank Wisner at his residence, Roosevelt House, said Mrs. Clinton seemed "very keen to learn" and was "amenable" to ideas to which she had perhaps never been exposed.

"She struck me as someone very bright, very pleasant and very well briefed," said Mallika Sarabhai, one of India's best-known dancers and choreographers, and a publisher.

Sarabhai, who attended the luncheon, told *India Abroad*: "The women she met represented a special Indian brand of feminism. They were progressive and also proud of being women."

Sarabhai said she had told Mrs. Clinton that Indian civilization had always been comfortable with and unquestioning of women in positions of power. She went on:

"I told her that unlike in the U.S., men here do not have any serious problem accepting women in leadership roles. I even pointed out that it was a pity that in the U.S. men have a problem accepting a woman as a president. She acknowledged that was indeed a problem."

Also present was Jaya Arunachalam, who runs the Madras-based Working Women's Forum that helps traditional weavers. She admitted having been "very skeptical" before attending the luncheon.

"I'm not given to such high-falutin' lunches, but must say I came back very pleased and impressed with her sincerity and grasp of women's issues," she said.

Also, she added, Mrs. Clinton was eager to incorporate what she learned from women's groups in India in the agenda of the Beijing conference on women later this year.

Mrs. Clinton particularly focused on improving women's status through education. She also asked about the high-school dropout rate among girls.

Asked how she felt Mrs. Clinton had come across, Arunachalam said: "She was very humble and made it clear that she was here to learn and not teach. At the same time, she knew what she was talking about."

Sarabhai and Arunachalam said they had the impression that Mrs. Clinton had "enormous influence" with President Clinton. They expressed the hope that her interactions in South Asia, especially India, would translate into policies of substance toward the region.

Sarabhai said she had told the First Lady it was a pity that to be accepted, she still had to use "Hillary Rodham Clinton," not just "Hillary Rodham." And she voiced the opinion that Mrs. Clinton would make an excellent president.

"An important thing about our meeting was that it might help correct a naive view that most Americans have about women in India," she emphasized. "They think we are oppressed and put down, but it is far from that, as she must have found out."

Arunachalam said Mrs. Clinton had expressed eagerness to visit southern India in future. There was some disappointment among southern non-governmental groups that the First Lady did not visit them, according to Nandini Azad, also of the Working Women's Forum.

Jan Peterson of Groot's North America had written to Mrs. Clinton asking her to come to Madras while she was in India.

"The Working Women's Forum is an example of grass-roots women organizing for the sustainable development of their communities and families," said the letter, signed by Peterson and three other Groot's activists.

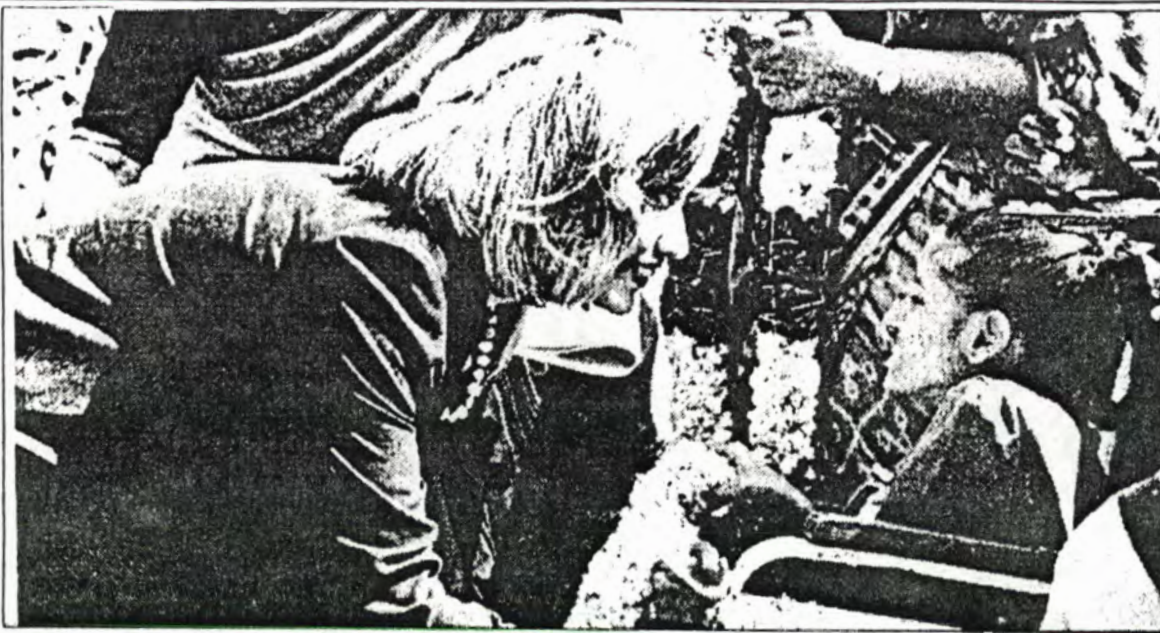
It described the forum as a contemporary of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh (for helping the poor), which the Clintons have praised and emulated in Arkansas.

Arunachalam gave Mrs. Clinton a crimson silk scarf with gold inlay work, made by the famous Kanjivaram weavers. Sarabhai said the First Lady had expressed a desire to watch her dance drama, "Sita's Daughter."

"She said I must let her know when I perform it in New York," Sarabhai added.

Others at the luncheon were Margaret Alva, Minister for Personnel and Parliamentary Affairs; film maker Mira Nair; Shobhana Bharatiya of *The Hindustan Times*; Urvasi Butalia of the publishing house Kali for Women; and activists Ranjana Kurnari, C.P. Jayalakshmi and Bonani Kaddar.

India Abroad
April 7, 1995

TOP OF THE WEEK**First Lady's Visit : Focus on Women**

Mrs. Clinton talking to a handicapped girl during her visit to "Prayas," a children's home, in New Delhi on March 28. (Photo: Ramesh)



Mrs. Clinton watches a Nepalese woman weaving during a demonstration of local crafts, shortly after her arrival in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu on March 31. Mrs. Clinton told the artisans: "What you are doing is what I am trying to encourage, help women gain independence and income."

(Photo: Wide World).



Mrs. Clinton and her daughter Chelsea ride an elephant during a visit to Nepal's Chitwan National Forest on April 2. (Photo: Wide World).

Bengali Women Are Candid With Hillary Clinton

By TODD S. PURDUM

DHAKA, Bangladesh, April 3 — A group of women of the untouchable class reached across a gulf of language and culture today to pepper Hillary Rodham Clinton with questions about her status and self-reliance as a woman.

"Do you have cattle in your house?" asked one woman in Moishahati, a dusty hamlet in southwest Bangladesh that has been transformed by the Grameen Bank, which makes small loans to poor people without collateral in exchange for promises of productive work and monitoring by other borrowers.

"No," Mrs. Clinton smiled in acknowledgment of a world in which the difference between one cow and a few cows in a household is the difference between night and day. But the next question was trickier, touching on many of the compromises Mrs. Clinton, a lawyer and the first First Lady to have a professional career before entering the White House, has had to make.

"I earn our income and that's how I make our families," another villager said at a meeting under a bamboo and tin-roofed hut built for Mrs. Clinton's visit. "Whose income do you live on?"

Mrs. Clinton answered evenly: "I started to work when I was 13 years old, and I always earned my own money. And there were some years when I earned more income than my husband. Now that my husband is the President, I am not earning my own income. But I will later, again, earn my own income."

Mrs. Clinton seemed to relish the moment as she answered questions with her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, at her side.

"Do you intend to have any more children?" another woman asked, reflecting a pressing concern in a country where 120 million people are crammed into an area about the size of Wisconsin.

"I would have loved to have had one or two more children," Mrs. Clinton replied, putting her arm around Chelsea.

In a 12-day tour encompassing tightly scripted photo opportunities, visits to schools and clinics and ceremonial handshakes with heads of all day's encounter, while still ably choreographed, stood



Hillary Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, meeting with women in Moishahati, Bangladesh, yesterday.

In a scripted tour, some moments of authenticity.

out for its authenticity.

With the bank's 54-year-old founder and guiding light, Muhammad Yunus, an economist trained at Vanderbilt University, interpreting at her side, Mrs. Clinton heard a Bengali version of "It's a Wonderful Life," with Dr. Yunus in the role of Jimmy Stewart.

The idea for Grameen (the Bengali word for rural) was born in the mid-1970's, when Dr. Yunus was teaching at Chittagong University in southern Bangladesh and found himself implored for money by beggar



The Grameen Bank has helped transform Moishahati's economy.

women. He decided the answer was access to enough capital to win a foothold on life, and in 1976 he made his first loans (\$30 divided among 42

people) from his personal money, eventually setting up an independent bank.

Now Grameen has more than 1,000 branches in 34,000 villages. Last year it made \$369 million in loans, the vast majority to women, with the largest loans being typically about \$600 for a home. Repayment rates are higher than those of commercial banks here and the idea has been copied in a handful of places across the United States, including Arkansas, where Bill Clinton helped start the Arkansas Development Bank when he was Governor.

"The woman who has completed the loan is completely different," Dr. Yunus said. "The whole world was telling her, 'You are no good, you are a woman.' Now comes the First Lady of the world to talk about it. It is a validation of what they are doing."

The eye-opening experiences of the Clintons' visit to Asia easily outweighed concerns about the increased public exposure for Chelsea.



Wearing a traditional Hindu teep on her forehead, Chelsea Clinton looks around her mother, Hillary Rodham Clinton, at a village in Bangladesh.

Chelsea moves out into media spotlight

merges as a youthful diplomat

By Nancy Benac
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Spring break is turning into an international coming-out party for 15-year-old Chelsea Clinton.

The only child of Bill and Hillary Clinton, protectively shielded from the spotlight at home, is emerging as a poised junior diplomat on her mother's tour of the Indian subcontinent.

Photos beamed home from the other side of the world show her side by side with her mother in every setting from the top of an elephant to opulent official dinners, clearly fascinated at all she is seeing.

Her wonderment comes through in the questions she asks and the careful eye with which she studies her surroundings.

Touring the dusty village of Moishahati yesterday, both mother and daughter found themselves surrounded by adoring women and children who decorated their heads with the traditional teep red dot for Mrs. Clinton, green Chelsea. The mark once signaled whether a woman was married or single but now is worn for decorative purposes.

Visiting Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi, Chelsea quietly questioned the nuns about adoption procedures before ex-

Touring the splendor of the pearl-white Taj Mahal, she described the building as "the embodiment of the fairy-tale palace" of her younger days.

"I would see pictures of it, and I would dream I was a princess or whatever," she recalled, "and now that I am here, it's spectacular."

Visiting the sprawling Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, Pakistan, it was Chelsea who asked the most detailed questions.

Having studied Islam in history class at school, she engaged one of the scholars one-on-one while her mother conversed with another guide. And when White House aides working on a speech needed to double-check a reference in the Koran, it was Chelsea who readily produced one she had brought from home.

The first daughter sometimes breaks off on her own — security guards in tow — to explore these exotic Asian settings at her own pace. She headed off on an elephant Sunday morning while her mother went hiking.

But more often than not, she has elected to accompany her mother

from one official event to the next, to the delight of their hosts.

At the Self-Employed Women's Association in Ahmadabad, India, organizers of the trade group introduced Chelsea to great applause as "a potential future member of SEWA."

Adoring teen-age girls at the Islamabad College for Girls gathered around Chelsea in their outdoor cantina, while Mrs. Clinton chatted with school officials elsewhere.

The worldwide exposure is an abrupt change of pace for a 10th-grader who attends private school and has been kept from the public spotlight during the first two years of her father's presidency.

The Clintons made it clear even before the inauguration they were anxious to give Chelsea a "normal" teen-age upbringing, and they rarely involve her in public appearances.

Such sensitivities are clearly evident, even as mother and daughter make this very high-profile march across South Asia.

Reporters had to dicker with White House aides over whether Chelsea's remarks about the Taj Mahal could be quoted; the aides finally relented.

And when TV correspondents asked if Chelsea could repeat her observations about the Taj Mahal on camera, Mrs. Clinton abruptly steered her daughter elsewhere and insisted, "No, no."

White House aides then laid out ground rules under which Chelsea can be quoted when she is heard speaking in public but not when engaged in conversation by reporters.

Spokeswoman Lisa Caputo, who gets caught in the middle of the tug-of-war over coverage of Chelsea, said the eye-opening experiences of the Clintons' visit to Asia easily outweighed concerns about the increased public exposure for Chelsea.

"It's a learning experience of a lifetime," she said. "This is a remarkable experience for anyone to have — no matter what age."

The Reliable Source

By Lois Romano



The Clintons speak with Bangladeshi women.

Where's the Beef?

Hillary Clinton, nearing the end of her South Asia trip, sat on a wooden bench under a tin-roofed shed in a rural Bangladesh village yesterday, questioning poor Hindu women about their lives and problems.

The village women, draped in their best saris, then turned the tables and asked if they could pose a few questions to the first lady.

"Certainly," Mrs. Clinton replied.

One woman stood boldly and queried, "Do you have cows in your home?"

Taken aback for a moment, the White House resident then responded with proper gravity in her voice, "No, we do not have cattle in our home."

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1995

Hillary Clinton's Mother Lode

In an exotic setting, Hillary Rodham Clinton found something familiar in her morning paper, a critical article about herself. The novelty about the Calcutta Telegraph story was the nature of the complaint. The imperious policymaker, the militant feminist, was accused of suppressing substance during her Asian tour. Commenting on a "gushing" speech at a girls' school, the writer sniffed, "It could just as well have been Lady Diana, Jane Fonda or [Miss World] speaking."

Indians had found her noncontroversial, that status she craves at home. She was there as an ambassador of good will, an advocate of the rights of women and children and an entranced sightseer who ate up the dancing camels and accommodating elephants. But the real image-remaking was going on at home: Hillary Clinton coming through as a mother.

This was her daughter Chelsea's debut, and the mother-daughter team was a big hit. Hillary Clinton has famously rubbed psyche of the Angry White Male the wrong way, but Mrs. AWM for the past week was looking at Chelsea Clinton and maybe saying, "You gotta admit she did a good job with the kid."

Hillary Clinton has, in short, accomplished the most enviable thing of all. She has brought up a nice child. The president may get some credit, too.

Chelsea has been under wraps since her father began the race for the White House. Her parents have never cheated on that score, except when her hard-pressed father, seeking desperately for closure on the Gennifer Flowers episode, gave the Democratic National Convention a sound bite, garnered he said, from a post-"60 Minutes" conversation: "I think I'm glad you're my parents." It was icky and not blindingly credible.

But for the past week, Chelsea has been speaking for herself, and although the first lady's staff panicked when she was quoted about the Taj Mahal, she has been giving a good account of herself. On their home screen Americans have seen mother and daughter exchanging smiles all along the route—at Mother Teresa's orphanage, dandling babies, at the Taj Mahal, in Pakistani dress, aboard the symbol of the city that gives her father much trouble.

Chelsea seems to like her mother, which at her age is almost as important as loving her.

By all accounts, Chelsea is a gentle and mannerly young woman. She has done her homework and, according to Washington Post correspondent Molly Moore, impressed her guides with her learning. Fifteen is deep in the dark heart of

adolescence. It is an age when children are at their least delightful, given to rejecting their parents and all they stand for, given to storms and sullen silences. Americans have discovered, finally, something they can admire unequivocally in Hillary Clinton, who is, of course, a total heroine to the put-upon women of her swing through Asia, where female infanticide is still practiced.

Says Republican Rep. Nancy L. Johnson of Connecticut, who qualifies as an expert, having three teenage daughters of her own, "This woman is a mother."

Americans are terribly fussy about their first ladies. They find them dowdy or too clothes-conscious; they think they have too much influence (Nancy Reagan and her horoscopes) or too little (Pat Nixon). They say they want them just to look after their husbands but they really expect exemplary hard work. Jacqueline Kennedy, initially written off as a high-society fashion plate, redeemed herself at the time of the assassination with her heartbreaking dignity and her shattering sense of what was due a fallen president.

The favorite first lady of the past 25 years was Barbara Bush, who eschewed policy but aimed poisoned darts at her husband's enemies. The combination of matronliness and malice seemed to satisfy the public.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), forced into civility by his mother's televised indiscretion about Hillary Clinton, pronounced himself "delighted" with Clinton's excursion. He compared her to Eleanor Roosevelt, said she was carrying on a tradition established by Mrs. Roosevelt, "who pioneered as an ambassador of good will."

Hillary Clinton loves being compared to Eleanor Roosevelt, who scoured the world for information to bring home to her husband. Now that she has been seen by so many touring clinics and elementary schools in Asia, Clinton may be expected to do more of the same here, particularly in the District of Columbia, the city that is falling apart at her feet.

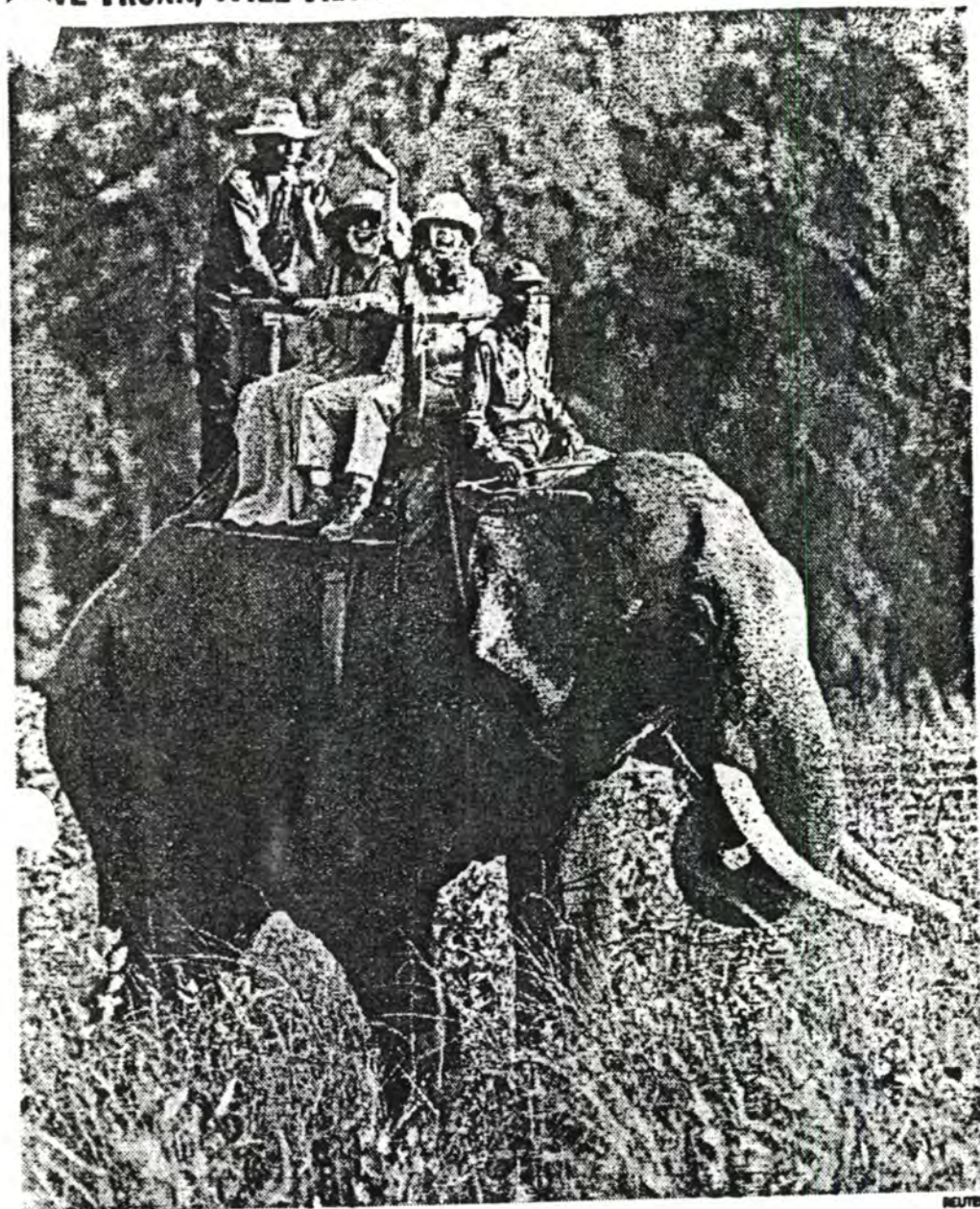
Mrs. Roosevelt was savagely criticized at the time as a left-wing meddler. She paid no heed. Unlike Hillary Clinton, she never brooded about it or complained about the press. She wrote her own column. Maybe now, buoyed by her Asian success and sustained by her new identity as Chelsea's mother, Hillary Clinton will set about renewing her domestic efforts for women and children and let her critics chase their tails.



All smiles

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton faces photographers with Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga after arriving in Colombo, the last stop on her 12-day tour of five countries in South Asia.

HAVE TRUNK, WILL TRAVEL



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, daughter Chelsea and two guides take in the sights atop an elephant over the weekend in Nepal's Royal Chitwan National Park. See story, Page D1.

THE WASHINGTON POST

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1995

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A Far-Reaching Expedition

First Lady Touts Issues and Raises Smiles on South Asia Trip

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Foreign Service

AL CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, Nepal, April 2—Imagine, for a moment, Secret Service officers atop elephants lumbering into the forest to protect first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, one agent bending to speak into the microphone protruding ever so slightly from the cuff of his shirt sleeve. Or officers in stocking feet padding after her at a mosque.

Or agents peeking uncomfortably into the crib of Mother Teresa's orphans in search of hidden hazards.

It's all in a day's work during what the first lady's staff has dubbed the Hillaryland Tour: Mrs. Clinton's 12-day journey through the women's empowerment organizations and prime ministers' residences of South Asia.

Over the weekend she took a day off to ride elephants and hike at one of Nepal's most popular wildlife preserves—home to rare Bengal tigers

See CLINTON, D7, Col. 1



Sir Edmund Hillary meets Hillary Rodham Clinton in Nepal yesterday. The first lady told the explorer that she was named for him.

The First Lady's Trip

CLINTON, From D1

(which she didn't see) and endangered greater one-horned rhinoceroses (which she did see).

But the trip, which is providing the first lady with a chance to promote what have become her main causes—women's and children's issues—is also giving her a crack at proving she has a humorous, human side after a grim year of health care reform failure and such scandals as Whitewater.

Not that you'd bust a gut laughing,

at some who have observed her up close for the past few years say they haven't seen her so relaxed since she assumed the role of first lady.

After spending more than a week harping on the importance of educating girls in cultures that place little value on girls and women and where female illiteracy is extraordinarily high, she had but one response when told that several mother-daughter pairs of rhinos had been spotted in her vicinity at the wildlife preserve:

"Are they sending their girls to school?"

In New Delhi she watched schoolchildren demonstrating yoga exercises designed to strengthen the heart and arms. Afterward, she told the youngsters, "I'll try to work on my heart and my arms—and my waist."

When a student at a village school in rural Pakistan asked the first lady, "What is your nickname?" Mrs. Clinton paused momentarily. She then replied: "My nickname? Well, it depends upon whom you talk to. Some people have, I would imagine, very rude nicknames for me."

On this trip, she has acquired at least one new one. A carpet wallah, or

salesman, at the Islamabad, Pakistan, hotel where her party stayed rolled out carpet after carpet, beseeching "your ladyship" to purchase a sample of his goods. Her ladyship did.

Not that she's wanted for souvenirs. Her take has been so great that a State Department protocol "gift officer" accompanying her just to hand-

She has been draped in a half-dozen handmade shawls, presented with antique Victorian armchairs by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and plied with armloads of crafts and crates of souvenirs. First daughter Chelsea Clinton, who is traveling with her mother, accumulated enough

pearl, gold, emerald and ruby jewelry from Pakistani government officials to sustain the dowry of a wealthy South Asian bride.

In fact, the Clinton women have received so many goodies that the cargo hold of their plane was overflowing, so the crates were transferred to the automobile cargo plane that is ferrying their bulletproof black Cadillac from stop to stop.

(Not that they'll get to keep it all: Federal law mandates that all the gifts be catalogued; those valued at more than \$250 must be turned over to the National Archives to be placed in Bill Clinton's presidential library when he leaves office.)

The protocol officer has sent word back to Washington for advice in handling what she believes are two ivory carvings given to Mrs. Clinton by Bhutto. It is illegal to bring ivory into the United States because the poaching of elephants for their tusks has endangered the pachyderms.

While the region's government leaders have been lavishing Mrs. Clinton with elaborate gifts, she's been reciprocating with such items as a crystal vase titled "Moon Over Arkansas" and gold, silver and bronze coin collections commemorating the 1996 Summer Olympics.

The trip has also given her new tastes in fashion. Bhutto gave the first lady a red silk shalwar kameez—the elegant knee-length outfit of tunic and billowy pants favored by many women in South Asia—which she wore to an elaborate dinner given in her honor at the Red Fort in Lahore, Pakistan.

Mrs. Clinton was so taken by the long, flowing style that when she arrived in New Delhi the next day, she told her staff to find her a new one to wear to dinner with the Indian president. An embassy staffer contacted a Delhi shopkeeper, who brought racks of the outfits to Mrs. Clinton's hotel. She selected a black one with gold embroidery.

Today the first lady met the person responsible for her name—Sir Edmund Hillary, 75, who led the first expedition to climb Mount Everest. Mrs. Clinton said her mother read an article about Hillary in 1947 before he scaled the world's highest peak.

"So when I was born, she called me Hillary and she always told me it's because of Sir Edmund Hillary," Mrs. Clinton said.

The mountain climber's response: "When people used to hear the name Hillary, they always thought of me. Now they think of a woman's name."

The first lady has something else in common with Hillary—a large expeditionary force. As one director of the resort where she stayed inside the Royal Chitwan National Park rattled off the celebrities who have visited the hotel in the past—the Prince of Wales, Robert Redford, Richard Chamberlain, Goldie Hawn—she added, "But no one has come with as large an entourage as the first lady."

Mrs. Clinton's group, which numbers well over 30, includes media, Secret Service, White House staffers and others.

And, as usual, the cameras have captured a few moments on the trip that went unnoticed by the first lady.

At a health clinic in a Pakistani village, she watched a nurse give a young boy an oral polio vaccination. Mrs. Clinton then bent over the youngster and warbled, "Good boy."

The minute she turned around to leave, he spit up the vaccine.

Hillary meets her namesake

KATHMANDU, Nepal (Reuters) — Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday met the man she is named for — mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of Mount Everest.

The wife of President Clinton, who is on a goodwill tour of South Asia, was greeted by Mr. Hillary, 75, at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport when she arrived to take a plane out of Nepal after a three-day stay.

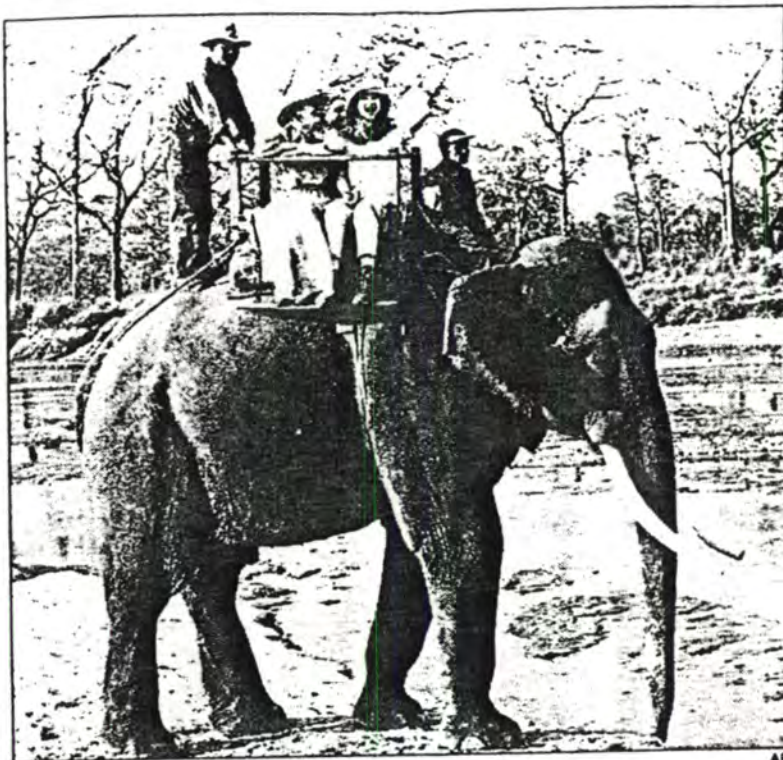
She flew to Dhaka for a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Mrs. Clinton, 47, told reporters in Nepal that her mother, Dorothy Rodham, read an article about Mr. Hillary while she was pregnant.

"She read an article in 1947 and that was before he climbed Everest. So when I was born, she called me Hillary and she always told me it was because of Sir Edmund Hillary," she said.

Mr. Hillary said it was "sheer coincidence" that their paths had happened to cross. The soft-spoken adventurer runs a foundation that builds schools and clinics in the Himalayas and he had come to Nepal on a visit.

The New Zealander, who



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea (waving) enjoy a bipartisan-sort of outing in the Chitwan National Forest in Nepal.

climbed the world's highest peak in 1953, saying he had done so "because it was there," noted that Mrs. Clinton's fame now exceeded his own.

"In America before, if anybody recognized the name Hillary it was always me, and now they say, 'Oh, you must be a lady,' he said.

Mrs. Clinton and her 15-year-old

daughter, Chelsea, relaxed on a weekend safari in Nepal's Royal Chitwan game preserve.

The two rode an elephant on an excursion into jungle where rare Bengal tigers roam.

Once a royal tiger-hunting preserve, Chitwan is now considered to be one of the finest game conservation areas in Asia.



Reuters

On their visit to Nepal, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton and their guides rode atop a 9-foot, 8½-inch elephant whose name means Brave Tiger.

Hillary Clinton Meets Man Who Gave Her 2 L's

DHAKA, Bangladesh, April 2 — Hillary Rodham Clinton has practiced law, raised a daughter and tried to change one-seventh of the American economy by reshaping health care. But in the last 24 hours she has ridden a bull elephant with Secret Service radio escort, and met the man responsible for making her a Hillary with two l's.

At an airstrip in Katmandu, Nepal — just after an overnight tiger safari and just before her departure for this poverty-ridden pocket of South Asia — Mrs. Clinton shook hands with Sir Edmund Hillary, the New Zealander who conquered Mount Everest with Tenzing Norgay in 1953. He was passing through town on his way to visit schools and a hospital in the Himalayan highlands financed by a foundation he heads.

"To be honest with you, in America, before if anybody recognized the name Hillary, it's always been me," Sir Edmund, 75, told reporters just before greeting Mrs. Clinton. "And now they say, 'Oh, you must be a lady!'"

For her part, Mrs. Clinton confessed that her mother, Dorothy Rodham, had read an article about the intrepid Edmund Hillary, a one-time beekeeper who had taken to mountain climbing, when she was pregnant with her daughter in 1947 and liked the name.

"It had two l's, which is how she thought she was supposed to spell Hillary," Mrs. Clinton told reporters after the brief meeting on the tarmac, minutes before her Air Force

Dorothy Rodham named her daughter after Sir Edmund Hillary.

jet flew past the peak of Everest itself. "So when I was born, she called me Hillary, and she always told me it's because of Sir Edmund Hillary."

Sir Edmund was to have joined Mrs. Clinton overnight at the Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge, a rustic hotel in the Royal Chitwan National Park that has played host to guests from Queen Elizabeth II to Goldie Hawn. But mechanical problems delayed his plane from New Zealand and he barely made it in time for the airport handshake today.

So he missed the sight of Mrs. Clinton and her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, ensconced in a padded howdah atop Shamsher Bahadur, a 9-foot, 8½-inch elephant whose name means Brave Tiger, in a sunset search for a tiger in the grass on Saturday. They were trailed by three Secret Service agents — with sunglasses, wrist walkie-talkies, ear-



Hillary Rodham Clinton met Sir Edmund Hillary in Katmandu.

"Fancy meeting you all here," Mrs. Clinton called out to reporters from under a wide-brimmed straw hat as her elephant approached a river bank for a picture-taking session that had been negotiated with her reluctant staff in the plaintive entreaties and blunt demurrers generally reserved for nuclear disarmament talks.

Informed that the reporters aboard their own fleet of rolling trunks and giant toenails, had seen three mother-daughter pairs of armor-plated Asian rhinos, Mrs. Clinton quickly brought the topic around to the business of her trip: encouraging the education of girls and women.

"Mothers and daughters?" she exclaimed. "Are they sending their girls to school?"

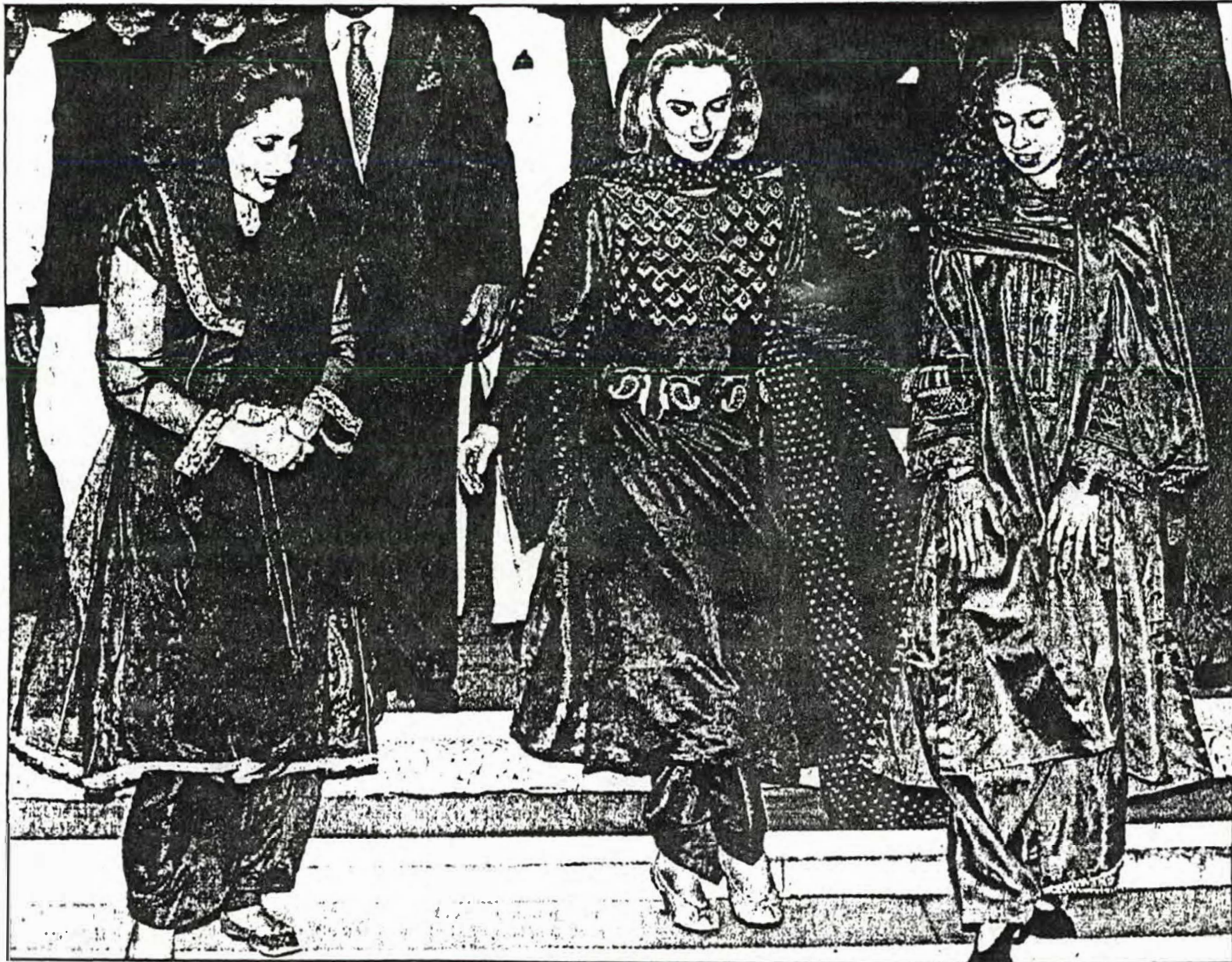
In fact, it must be reported, Mrs. Clinton's day off — sandwiched between 12 overloaded days of visits to schools, clinics and the leaders of five nations — induced in the captive press corps traveling with her a degree of sympathy rare for traveling journalists.

So it was all the more puzzling that her aides had ever resisted letting her be photographed in such a quintessential subcontinental setting. Some suggested they were reluctant to invite comparisons with Jacqueline Kennedy, the last American First Lady to make a solo trip to this region. She rode an elephant in Jaipur, India, 33 years ago last month.

One ride of an hour and a half was enough for Mrs. Clinton, though Chelsea went out again this morning. Neither spied the big quarry, the endangered royal Bengal tiger, but they did see rhinos, spotted deer and a peacock perched in a tree.

The forest was also thick with wild hogs, whose cousin, the Arkansas Razorbacks, impelled Mrs. Clinton's attempt at contact with the outside world from the remote lodge: she brought a short-wave radio, hoping to catch word of the game between the University of Arkansas and North Carolina, but couldn't find any broadcasts in English. In the end, the White House communications staff traveling with the First Lady reached the President's entourage in Little Rock and learned that Arka

WHEN IN PAKISTAN ...



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto walks with Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton after the three, all wearing Pa

dresses, attended a reception yesterday in Lahore. Earlier, the first lady spoke at a business school to urge a greater role for women. Story, A1

1/2

(ED: complete writethru adds details of bhutto's meeting with clinton)
P' to discusses U.S. policy with Hillary

I INWAR IQBAL=

ISLAMABAD, March 26 (UPI) Pakistan Sunday has presented to visiting U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton a laundry list of grievances affecting relations between Pakistan and the United States.

The presentation by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto included calls for the U.S. to release 38 F-16s or return money Islamabad has paid for the fighters, and criticism of the Pressler Amendment, which limits U.S. economic and military aid to Pakistan.

Officials said Bhutto briefed Mrs. Clinton and officials travelling with her on the agenda of issues the prime minister would raise during her upcoming visit to Washington. The 20-minute meeting took place prior to a luncheon in honor of Mrs. Clinton.

"Bhutto discussed the damage the discriminatory Pressler law had caused to the security of Pakistan and asked that either the U.S. should release the F-16s or return the money," said one official.

Bhutto also detailed alleged atrocities being carried out in Kashmir by Indian security forces and told Mrs. Clinton Kashmiris must be given the right to self-determination.

"Your glow and your presence warms us today and on behalf of 130 million Pakistanis it is my honor to welcome you into our homes and into our hearts. The name of Hillary Rodham Clinton has earned a special place of honor in our history. Mrs. Clinton is the symbol of all women everywhere, both in the East and the West that women can run corporations and run households, they can be great lawyers and still be great mothers," Bhutto said in welcoming Mrs. Clinton.

Bhutto said Islamabad is training thousands of female health workers to visit villages and towns to educate rural women, in an effort to implement her vision of a well-planned family.

Responding to Bhutto's speech Mrs. Clinton, said she was especially pleased to be here to reaffirm the partnership and friendship between Pakistan and the United States.

"There's much more in keeping us (women) in common than keeping us separate. I find so much keeps us in common as we move together to find our lives and it is a great privilege for me to be here with all of you," Mrs. Clinton said.

Praising Bhutto's emphasis on children, Mrs. Clinton said, "the work you are doing from extension of primary schooling, to the eradication of polio is being looked at with great interest and admiration"

"On behalf of the women of our country, it is a great privilege to be here and see opportunities. I wish my visit was longer, but I feel those of us in this room particularly as women have been blessed with a full range of opportunities and now we are here to listen and learn from what the prime minister of this country can do for the women."

Expressing her delight to have met 50 leading professional Pakistani women, Mrs. Clinton said: "I am happy to meet some of the women who are breaking new ground and giving a new meaning to the opportunity."

Bhutto drew chuckles when she told Mrs. Clinton that the Pakistani press says her husband, Asif Zardari, is Pakistan's de facto prime minister. "As the first lady, you can appreciate it is not true," said Bhutto.

"As a political spouse, I have a great sense of identity with him," Mrs. Clinton responded.

Bhutto introduced Mrs. Clinton to women from various walks of Pakistani society and also entertained her to a cultural show on the grounds of her official residence.

After the cultural show, the first lady drove to Islamabad's Faisal Mosque where her daughter Chelsea impressed many with her knowledge of Islam. She asked several questions on the Islamic faith and the holy book and later told her Pakistani hosts she had studied Islamic religion at school.

Mrs. Clinton's aides said Chelsea brought a copy of the Koran with her and offered to help her mother find a proper verse to use in her speech.

Later in the evening, Mrs. Clinton hosted a reception at the U.S. Embassy where she welcomed everyone individually. She wore a stunning Pakistani-style black velvet dress with gold work on it.

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s. Clinton Discusses Women's Issues with Pakistan's Bhutto

Photos ISL102, XISL103

by NANCY BENAC= Associated Press Writer=

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) Meeting as one tough woman to another, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto pledged a mutual determination Sunday to help women improve their lot in life.

One on one and in public, two of the world's best-known women displayed what appeared to be a genuine kinship as Mrs. Clinton began her 12-day tour of South Asia with a trip to the prime minister's sprawling white hillside residence.

"I know that much remains to be done in every society, in both of our countries, to ensure that women assume their rightful place and are given the opportunities to exercise their rights, but I am very optimistic by what I see happening in the world," Mrs. Clinton said at a five-course luncheon for prominent women hosted by the prime minister.

The Harvard-educated Mrs. Bhutto said her government is making "a frontal assault on institutional discrimination against women in our society."

Neither woman is without her share of critics, however, and Mrs. Bhutto wryly took note of that when she told Mrs. Clinton, "women who take on tough issues and stake out new territory are often on the receiving end of ignorance. I can personally attest to that."

She added: "You are both tough and a great leader."

The opulence of the prime minister's residence and the prominence of her women guests businesswomen, politicians, judges and doctors among them stood in stark contrast to the place of most impoverished Pakistani women.

Bhutto's critics say her government has failed to live up to her lofty words and that there has been no significant progress in improving the situation of women in this male-dominated society. Many Pakistanis also are disappointed in her failure to revive a stagnant economy and contain violence and corruption.

"Mrs. Bhutto has been an incompetent leader and her government is having a negative effort on most Pakistanis, especially women," said Abida Hussein, an opposition leader who was not among those included in the prime minister's luncheon.

Setting such criticism aside, the first lady and Mrs. Bhutto sought to emphasize the positive, including Pakistan's efforts to reserve government jobs for women, establish a women's development bank, set up special women's police stations and train women health-care workers.

Meeting with Mrs. Clinton privately before the luncheon, Mrs. Bhutto previewed the broader agenda she will bring to Washington when she meets with President Clinton next month, restating Pakistan's longstanding refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, aides said.

Publicly, the two kept their focus on the needs of women and children.

Renewing a theme she has voiced often in recent days, Mrs. Clinton argued that by investing in women and girls, "We invest in men, we invest in the future, we invest in our society."

The magnitude of the challenge facing women differs sharply between the United States and Pakistan. Where women in the United States want more opportunities for advancement in the work world, many Pakistani women lack access to basic health care, education and family planning and are allowed only limited participation in society.

Since most Pakistani girls marry in their teens and bear an average of six children families often put low priority on seeing that their girls are educated, focusing instead on preparing them for housework. Only about 25 percent are literate.

The first lady and her daughter, Chelsea, also paid a visit Sunday to the Faisal Mosque, an airy and looming white structure built in the 1970s to showcase Pakistan's Islamic identity.

The first lady's visit was meant to send a political statement as well as

to be informative. Administration officials said Mrs. Clinton hoped to demonstrate respect for Islam and communicate that Americans do not equate devotion to Islam with extremism.

"We've work hard ... to make it clear that with all our struggles with terrorism, we are not meaning to equate extremism with religious observance," a senior administration official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "There is a lot of misunderstanding."

Religious intolerance nonetheless remains an important human rights problem in Pakistan, where Islamic zealots discriminate against and persecute religious minorities, according to the State Department. Religious and ethnic-based rivalries have resulted in many murders, bombings and civil disturbances.

Mrs. Bhutto and Mrs. Clinton shared a laugh over the inevitable speculation that is directed at the spouses of world leaders. Referring to her husband, the prime minister said that "according to newspapers in Pakistan, Mr. Asif Zardari is de facto prime minister of the country. He says only the first lady can appreciate it's not true."

Mrs. Clinton clearly identified with the remark, saying, "I must say that as a political spouse, I feel a great sense of identity with him as well."

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Hillary Clinton meets with Pakistani leader

By `NWAR IQBAL=

ISLAMABAD, March 26 (UPI) Visiting U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Sunday expressed their hopes that women will be able to find a more prominent role in society.

Mrs. Clinton is in Pakistan on the first leg of her 10-day tour of five South Asian nations.

"When you invest in women and girls, you are investing in society," the U.S. first lady said in response to Bhutto's welcoming remarks at a reception at the prime minister's official residence.

Bhutto echoed Mrs. Clinton's sentiments, saying Islamabad has opened "(all-women) banks, police stations run by women and is encouraging women to come forward in non-conventional sectors."

The two also spoke of their dreams for a world where women and children enjoy a better life.

"When I spoke at the world population summit in Cairo (last year), I spoke of a society where every pregnancy is planned and every child is nurtured, loved and supported," said Bhutto.

Bhutto said Islamabad is training thousands of female health workers to visit villages and towns to educate rural women, in an effort to implement her vision of a well-planned family.

When "we invest in our children, we are saying our future is worth while," Mrs. Clinton added. She emphasized the need for the creation of a society "blessed with full range of opportunities."

The two also traded compliments. Bhutto told Mrs. Clinton Pakistan is utterly fascinated by your heroic efforts to redefine the role of women in the United States; the U.S. first lady responded by calling the Pakistani leader's role in politics "a beacon for all of us."

During their brief remarks, Bhutto and Mrs. Clinton discussed the difficulties women face in society. Bhutto spoke of a double standard, quoting former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher: "When a woman is tough, she is strident while when a man is tough, he is a great leader."

Bhutto drew chuckles when she told Mrs. Clinton that the Pakistani press says her husband, Asif Zardari, is Pakistan's de facto prime minister. "As the first lady, you can appreciate it is not true," said Bhutto.

"As a political spouse, I have a great sense of identity with him," Mrs. Clinton responded.

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Chelsea Clinton and her mother at the Taj Mahal.

REUTERS

The First Daughter's Passage Through India

By Molly Moore

Washington Post Foreign Service

CAGRA, India, March 30 Chelsea Clinton at the Taj Mahal:

"When I was little, this was sort of the embodiment of the fairy-tale palace for me. I would see pictures of it and would dream I was a princess or whatever. Now that I'm here, it's spectacular."

Chelsea's fairy tale today

quickly and briefly exploded into her mom's press secretary's biggest nightmare.

The press—horrors—wanted to quote the first daughter's reaction to one of the world's best-known landmarks. No, absolutely not, declared the protective press secretary, Lisa Caputo. Chelsea doesn't give interviews, doesn't answer questions and isn't quoted in the press. Even-

See CHELSEA, D2, Col. 4

Chelsea In India

CHELSEA, From D1

tually, under protest, she relented. This once, she said.

Despite White House characterizations to the contrary, Chelsea Clinton is having something of a coming-out party on a 12-day sweep across the subcontinent with her mother. She stands attentively and confidently at the first lady's side at almost every event.

She cuddled babies with Mom at Mother Teresa's orphanage; she sat beside Mom in a hot village square and listened to a poor Pakistani woman relate the woes of having 10 children; she has charmed tour guides with her insightful and informed questions.

In fact, on a carefully staged trip in which Hillary Clinton's official schedule revolves around women's and children's issues, Chelsea Clinton may be the most interesting untold story.

The Clintons have been rigorous in keeping their 15-year-old daughter out of the spotlight in an effort to allow her as normal a childhood as possible.

On this trip, the cameras have followed every move of both mother and daughter, and Caputo has issued strict instructions for American coverage of Chelsea. When she's with her mother, the events are on the record and can be reported. When she's not with her mother, the cameras traveling on the

plane with the Clintons cannot report any of her activities.

As a result, the local press in New Delhi can report that Chelsea was seen at a popular local restaurant one night with students from the American school there, but reporters traveling on the plane cannot.

But far more important and interesting is Chelsea's symbolic role: a young woman with a bright future standing before young South Asian women who may not be allowed to finish school because they are needed at home, who will be married off at a young age to boys they have never met and who face lives of drudgery and misery.

Throughout Pakistan and India, young women have related enthusiastically to Chelsea as they accompany her through their schools, villages and homes. Today she appeared at ease sitting amid a crowd of about 250 impoverished women—ragpickers, vegetable vendors and garment makers—during a visit to a branch of the Self-Employed Women's Association, a union of poor working women.

Many of the questions from young girls have been similar to those young girls anywhere would ask each other. At a rural village school in Pakistan where few girls will ever graduate, one student asked Chelsea her favorite subjects in school.

"That's difficult," replied the Sidwell Friends student. "I like history and science."

Chelsea impressed a local official at a mosque in Islamabad with her knowledge of Islam. At the Red Fort in Lahore, Pakistan, she retained minute historical details that she later relayed to less attentive adults in the White House party.

And while the Chelsea of the first year of the administration often appeared intimidated by the crush of cameras and the curious stares that follow any of the Clintons wherever they go, she now takes it all in stride, casting frequent shy smiles toward the crowds.

According to local embassy officials throughout South Asia, Chelsea rejected a long list of "kid-oriented" programs offered at each of her mother's stops—such as puppet shows and appearances at local American schools—opting instead for the same tours, interviews and speeches that the first lady is making.

She usually participates in separate activities only when Hillary Clinton is conducting official meetings or meals with heads of state. And she has even participated in some of those.

In Islamabad, she joined her mother at a lunch hosted by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto because Hillary Clinton said she'd always hoped Chelsea would be able to meet Bhutto; the first lady said she considers the Pakistani leader a strong role model.

The trip has also demonstrated a mother-daughter relationship between Hillary and Chelsea Clinton that would appear to be the envy of any mother: They are respectful and attentive to each other and seem to genuinely enjoy each other's company.

Still, teenagers will be teenagers the world over. What do inquiring young Indian girls with straight dark hair want to know about Chelsea?

Are her curly blond locks real or permed?

Answer: They're real.

South Asia's problems overwhelm the senses

But Mrs. Clinton likely to be shielded

By Ben Barber
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It is unlikely that Hillary Clinton on her March 24-April 6 trip will pierce the veil of religion, poverty and culture that keeps close to a billion South Asian women and children in poverty.

Despite attempts in Pakistan and India to shield Mrs. Clinton from the stench of poverty, most Westerners need but the drive from the airport into town to notice that people have torn and filthy clothing, children lack shoes or suffer from untended illness and emaciated cows graze on weeds.

And when a woman from the prosperous kingdom of Thailand first visited Nepal a few years ago, within half an hour she turned to me and said: "What kind of a king do these people have? Doesn't he know how they live?"

A few months later an uprising restored democracy and left the king a constitutionally limited monarch.

After nearly three decades of visits to Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka—many of them as a reporter for U.S. newspapers—I have seen pictures of human misery that surpass imagination: mutilated beggar children exposing their deformities for the profit of what is basically a beggar-pimp; open fields where the entire village goes to defecate each morning; and young children turning lathes in the carpenter shop or scrubbing pots with black mud by the public tap.

There are bright spots in the picture. In Bangladesh, a Dhaka reporter told me of a meeting

where an old, poor woman had stood up to criticize the agriculture minister and demand improved services.

"I had never seen a woman of her caste speak to the authorities like that," recalled the Bangladeshi reporter. "Something had given her the courage and strength to do it."

He found she belonged to a group linked to the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), which had organized 40,000 villagers back in the middle 1980s.

BRAC worked with the poorest of the poor, landless laborers, and offered free literacy classes. They helped villagers form groups that paid for one member to be trained as a medic, another as a farmer and a third as a weaver. When the medic returned, he or she treated the group for free and charged the rest of the village, using the proceeds for medicine.

Landowners who lost their source of cheap labor as the group found they could rent land and grow their own crops, attacked the members as communists and drove them from their mosque. Among their supposed offenses was giving women an equal voice.

In Peshawar, Pakistan, where the women wear black burkas covering them from head to toe, I asked students at the university what they—presumably the more educated elements in society—thought about women's rights.

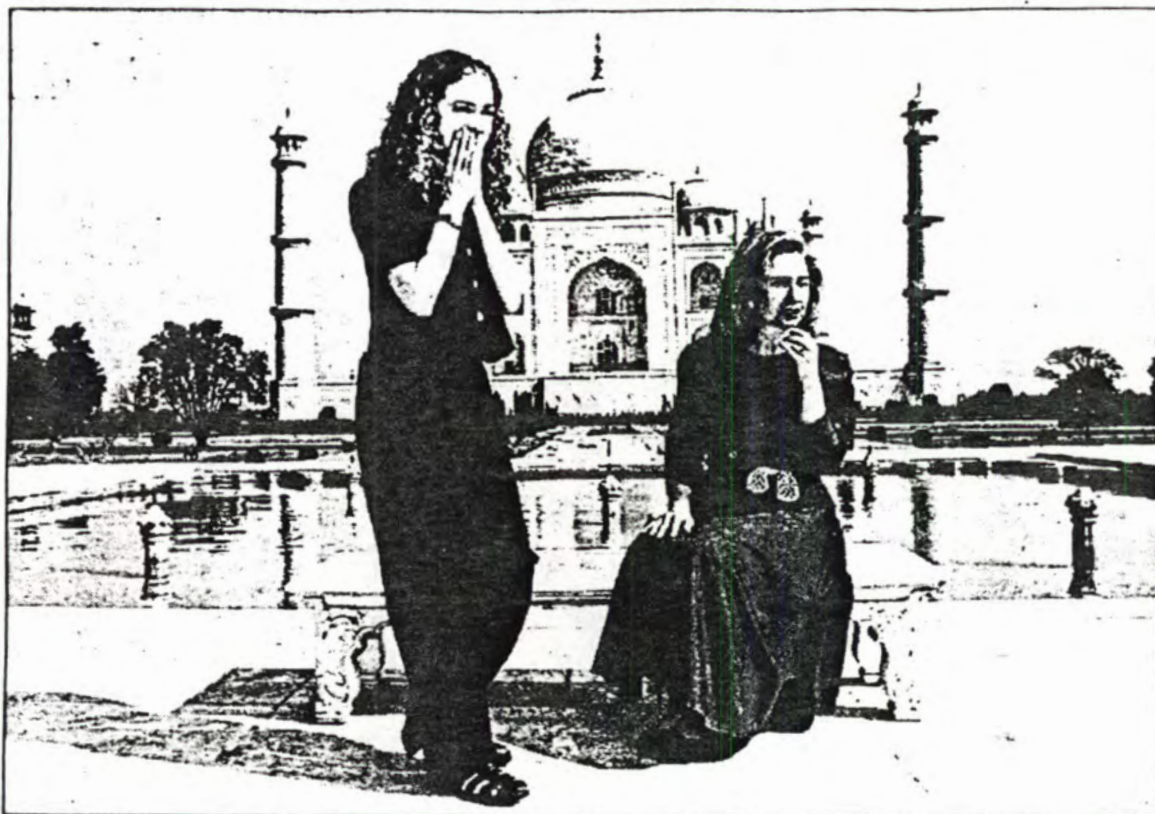
They had little sympathy for their sisters. At age 8 the girls are pulled out of school and thereafter remain inside the family compound. "They are like a dog," said one student. "They look out the window and that is all they can do."

Enjoying India



Reuters

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and 15-year-old Chelsea Clinton pose for photos before visiting the Taj Mahal. Mrs. Clinton, who is to fly to Nepal today, also visited the Self-Employed Women's Assn. in Ahmadabad, where she spoke with trade union members.



Reuters

A trip and a fall

Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, moving on to India as part of their 12-day tour of South Asia, are startled as a photographer falls down while taking their picture yesterday in front of the Taj Mahal.

Hillary Clinton Talks to Poor Working Women's Group in India

AHMADABAD, India, March 31 (AP) — In a sweltering tent, Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke today with vegetable vendors, embroidery workers and other poor women who said they were no longer afraid to organize for better treatment in India's marketplace and society.

Mrs. Clinton's visit to the Self-Employed Women's Association could well be the defining moment of her 12-day tour of South Asia, a trip centered on promoting better health, education and opportunity for women and girls throughout the world.

"I will never forget what I have

seen and heard and learned here today," Mrs. Clinton told a group of 200 women. "I know how this kind of solidarity and effort can change lives."

S.E.W.A. is a union of 143,000 women formed in 1972 to help those in the largely invisible "informal" economy of agricultural workers, vendors and other self-employed women. It was organized by 62-year-old Ela Bhatt, a follower of Mohandas K. Gandhi who wanted to ensure better treatment for the often oppressed, illiterate women who struggle to provide for their families.

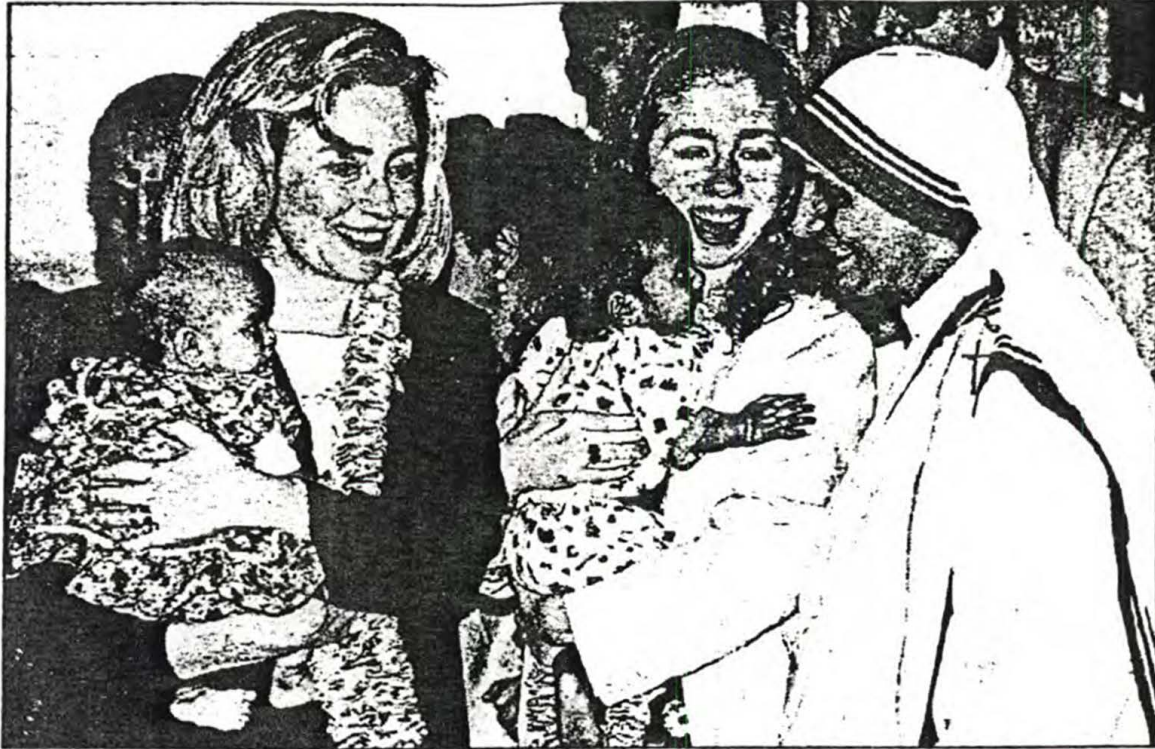
From a modest beginning, the association has grown into the country's leading women's organization. It set up a bank that offers credit to women who otherwise could not get loans, organizes cooperatives to build up business and create jobs, offers skills training and health insurance and provides legal aid.

Mrs. Clinton, who first met Mrs. Bhatt at the White House last year, said the United States could learn from the association's example on expanding access to credit and other matters, and praised the group's efforts to give women "a better life

without fear."

Earlier today, Mrs. Clinton laid a wreath at a monument to Gandhi and toured the Ahmadabad retreat where he lived from 1918 to 1930. She also toured the Taj Mahal with her 15 year-old daughter Chelsea. The 17th-century tomb was built by the Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to their 14th child.

On Friday Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to fly to Nepal. She has already visited Pakistan and is to visit Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.



Reuters

Babes in arms

On the second leg of her 12-day goodwill tour of South Asia, Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, tour Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi, India, where they eagerly cradled and rocked two babies in pink dresses. Sister Priscilla (right) was their guide yesterday as Mother Teresa was in Vietnam.



REUTERS
Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea meet children and chat with one of the nuns at an orphanage run by Mother Teresa.

A Tour of Newer Delhi

Clean Teams Precede Clintons' Motorcade

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Foreign Service

DELHI, March 28—Yesterday, anonymous visitors walked a dusty, garbage-strewn lane to reach Mother Teresa's orphanage in the heart of Old Delhi.

Today, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton strolled down a newly paved road to visit the same orphanage.

Call it the Santizing of South Asia. Wherever the first lady goes, the governments of some of the poorest nations in the world are a few hours ahead—paving roads, camouflaging garbage dumps, clearing urban streets of cows and shoveling sewage and dung.

Members of Mrs. Clinton's advance party and U.S. embassy staffs

have been marveling at the new, improved Pakistan and India that have emerged in the few days between their scouting tours and the arrival of the first lady and daughter Chelsea on their five-nation tour.

When the Clinton motorcade whisked through the Pakistani countryside yesterday, a long fence of brightly colored fabric shielded it from a sprawling, smoldering garbage dump where children combed through trash and several poor families had built huts from scraps of cardboard, rags and plastic.

At Burki, a middle-class village outside the eastern city of Lahore where Mrs. Clinton visited a school and health clinic, workers dug out

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Preparing For the First Lady

INDIA, From B1

open sewers that had been clogged with smelly sludge and swept away the ubiquitous heaps of rubbish and cow dung that are part of every village landscape.

"This is probably the cleanest village in Pakistan," one Pakistani newspaper reporter said sarcastically while poking the wet mortar of a newly constructed brick wall.

In another instance, Pakistani officials, having heard rumors that the first lady might take a hike into the scenic Margalla Hills overlooking the capital of Islamabad, rushed out and paved a 10-mile stretch of road to a village in the hills. She never took the hike (the Secret Service vetoed the proposal), but villagers got a paved road they'd been requesting for decades.

Security concerns in this region, where assassinations, shootings and bombings are all too commonplace, have also contributed to the distorted and sanitized version of South Asia being shown to the first lady and Chelsea.



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton meets Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma in his official residence in New Delhi.

Burki, whose entire population would normally turn out to greet any foreigner who arrived for a look around, was eerily quiet during the Clinton visit: Residents of the town's mud houses had been pushed out of sight by a battalion of security forces. While a group of students and teachers met with the first lady in the village square, most residents were con-

finied to distant rooftops or corralled behind police lines.

When a Pakistani government official was asked about the absence of villagers, she replied that most were "napping." Few residents of any rural South Asian village would be caught napping at the same time the American president's wife was rolling into town in a black bulletproof Cadillac flown in from the United States.

The Clintons also missed the adventure of driving one of Old Delhi's busiest stretches of road, where hundreds of pedestrians and cars vie with cows, rickshaws, ox carts and trucks for space in a chaotic tangle of traffic that can best be compared to a scene from a Mad Max movie. Today the street was deserted except for the Clinton motorcade, which raced past

intersections where cars, buses, rickshaws and pedestrians were backed up as far as the eye could see.

"The Clintons don't like it, but it's part of the protocol," said one member of the first lady's travel team.

Meanwhile, back at Mother Teresa's Delhi orphanage, babies who normally wear nothing but thin cotton diapers that do little but promote rashes and exacerbate the reek of urine had been outfitted for the morning in American Pampers and newly stitched floral pinafores.

Even the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi got caught up in the face-lift fever. Ambassador Frank Wisner's wife flew a mural artist from overseas to redecorate the dining room of the embassy residence in time for a luncheon she hosted for Mrs. Clinton today. The artist was still putting the finishing touches on the walls at midnight.

The staff at the Maurya Sheraton Hotel in New Delhi, where the first lady and her entourage are bunking for the next three days, filled its vases with sprays of yellow blossoms in the belief that yellow is the first lady's favorite color. Alas, Mrs. Clinton revealed in an exclusive scoop to schoolchildren on Sunday that her favorite color is, in fact, blue.

For the first lady, however, nothing has matched the spectacle created by Pakistani government officials at a farewell dinner staged at the 12th-century Lahore fort on Sunday night.

In a medieval fairyland created by her hosts, the grounds of the red sandstone and white marble Mogul fort were aglow with the flickering of thousands of tiny oil lamps and the air was perfumed by an altar blanketed with red rose petals. Clad in a red silk *shalwar kameez*—the long tunic and pantaloons that are the native dress of Pakistani women—the first lady reviewed dancing camels, dancing horses and dancing tribesmen in a setting that would have rivaled the most lavish celebrations of its former royal occupants.

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

Up close to Third World



By John Gaps III, AP

IN NEW DELHI, INDIA: Chelsea Clinton cuddles orphaned toddlers Tuesday as she tours the Mother Teresa Orphanage with her mother, Hillary Rodham Clinton. The two are on a tour of south Asia.

First Lady Visits India Orphanage



Reuters

Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter Chelsea hold infants during a visit to Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi. The Clintons, pictured with a nun from the Missionaries of Charity, are on a three-day visit to India. Mother Teresa was unable to meet with Clinton because she was in Vietnam. The two have been corresponding about setting up a center in Washington for children awaiting adoption.

Amy E. Schwartz

Taking Feminism Abroad

The first lady took a surprising amount of flak—at least, it read like flak—for focusing her South Asian travels on such traditional first-lady causes as the welfare of children and women. Reporters drew contrasts between this and her previous two years of hard-core policy work, their prose turning sugary as the first lady toured women's development banks and urged schooling for girls and women, photo-opping her way into places the cameras rarely go.

Mrs. Clinton was offered this challenge in concrete form in Pakistan when a reporter asked her why she had ignored a chance to complain about human rights abuses. "I think by talking about girls and women, you're talking about human rights," she answered mildly, adding that "we have to emphasize as much as possible" that what happens to girls is a human rights issue, too.

It was a useful close-up on the usually unspoken double bind that grips women in high places—even now, when there are many. Not working explicitly on women's issues when you've attained some influence can seem strange and selfish to some, a refusal to share the wealth provided to this generation by previous struggles. Working on such issues, though, runs the opposite danger: The activity is taken by the wider world as a retreat from the main arena, a backing off into old-fashioned lady missionary work and away from the high seriousness of the truly "political."

The dichotomy is fake, of course, and it helps obscure a gigantic opportunity for useful action—by first ladies and by feminists in general. Some of Mrs. Clinton's critics, though justified in pointing to specific human rights abuses the first lady skipped, may be missing the degree to which the issues drawing volatile political dissent these days are, in fact, issues surrounding the role of women, especially in countries where fights are brewing between secular and fundamentalist ideas of governance.

In Bangladesh, the most famous political dissident of the moment remains the exiled Taslima Nasreen, threatened unofficially with death and officially with indictment for strong-minded assertions about feminism, Islam and women's health. Women's rights and women's dress are headline issues in politics from Afghanistan to Algeria, where women have been shot for refusing to veil their faces. In Algeria, women rank high among the casualties of what from afar is sometimes seen as a mere "culture war."

You'd think that mainstream feminist groups in the United States these days would be throwing themselves into these struggles as intrinsic to their own feminism, that the networks and funding sources and political acumen developed over a generation of successful activism would be flowing to the service of beleaguered women in Algeria and elsewhere. And yet despite thriving pockets of activism here and there, much aided by the administration's own demonstrated interest in the issues in international slugfests like the Cairo conference, these causes remain a subculture of American feminism rather than a major thrust.

Women known for their international human rights activism as well as for feminist writings—a prominent example is the Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood—are frequently those who have had fallings-out with organized feminism at some early stage. In other cases, such as the difficult work that's being done to combat female genital mutilation, the women's groups interested in such work run into a competing variety of academic feminism that insists on the claims of cultural relativism and the need to "respect" the manifestations of a non-Western culture even if, like genital mutilation, they are violent and sickening.

This intellectual reluctance is a less important factor, probably, than the simple press of other priorities. A scan of the speakers at the Mall rally for women's lives last weekend, where international issues were hardly mentioned, suggests that feminism in the age of Gingrich has all it can do just to resist erosion of women's status here in America. But this too is an illusory contradiction. The incentive for mainstream American feminist groups to plunge into urgent international cases like Algeria is not just magnanimity but plain organizational self-interest. In the years after the first successes of the civil rights movement, to take the obvious parallel, African American groups of every type flung themselves into the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Campaigns for divestiture and pressure on U.S. policy came from organizations at every level, on college campuses, in grass-roots organizations and right up the ladder to the Congressional Black Caucus. That work, besides its dramatic long-term effects on the world, left a thriving and much matured organization now poised—as William Raspberry recently observed—to use its moral clout against outlaw regimes elsewhere in Africa.

Rather than devour itself in ideological arguments and increasingly complex line-drawing, rather than let the academic study of women's issues descend into hypertheoretical weirdness and Balkanization, rather than insist that the progress made so far is illusory, feminist organizations that have gained influence could spark the growth of that influence immeasurably further by turning it outward. What the first lady's travels suggest, if anyone listens, is that even state-of-the-art feminism need not stop at the shore. In recalling the point, she may have done feminists a favor.

The writer is a member of the editorial page staff.

On the Road in Hillaryland

By TODD S. PURDUM

HERE in the shadows of Mount Everest this weekend, the burning questions are these: Will the world see America's No. 1 Democratic woman on that Republican icon, the elephant? And when Hillary Rodham Clinton sets out on a safari, who will win — the First Lady or the tiger?

Halfway through her 12-day official visit to South Asia, Mrs. Clinton has paused below the peak conquered by that other Hillary in search of a vanishing breed. So far, the view isn't bad. Mrs. Clinton's good will tour has been animated by an air of high moral purpose as she stresses the importance of educating women in a region that is home to some of the most oppressed, and most resourceful, women in the world. She has visited families, schools, a worker's union, government officials and even one of Mother Teresa's orphanages (yes, an orphanage).

The stream of photo-ops, shopping stops and short hops aboard the old Boeing 707 that serves as Air Force One and a Half has also produced its share of low comedy, as a planeload of White House aides and reporters joined Mrs. Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, on the journey into what the First Lady herself calls "Hillaryland." What follows is a strictly selective collection of impressions from along the way.

Candlesticks Are Nice

March 25. A refueling stop in Cairo turns into a surprise visit to the pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza, combining the serendipity of a trip to the Dairy Queen with the logistics of a Napoleonic campaign. The First Lady's entourage whizzes through downtown Cairo at midday with every intersection blocked off. Mrs. Clinton declines the offer of a camel ride, and a bit over two

hours later is back in the air.

March 26. A luncheon with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan in Islamabad begins a seemingly endless series of gift exchanges. Mrs. Clinton gives: a limited-edition crystal vase titled "Moon Over Arkansas" and a pair of silver candlesticks. Mrs. Clinton gets: two Victorian-style chairs with silver arms.

March 27. The First Lady meets a group of 16-to-20-year olds at the Islamabad College for Girls, where one offers a clear-eyed view of marriage. "You're never going to find the proper person or the ideal man," the girl says. "You have to be a lot more realistic." A few minutes later, Mrs. Clinton offers her own sober summary: "It's not a partnership that's 50-50. It's a partnership that's 100 percent and 100 percent, because that's what you have to give to it."

That's Entertainment

March 28. The traveling party is still agog from an official dinner the night before in the ruins of the red sandstone mogul fort at Lahore, Pakistan, where meandering paths were lit by thousands of tiny oil lamps and the entertainment included dancing camels. The glow fades just a bit when word spreads that the Secret Service had been worried about cobras in the garden.

March 29. After a day crowded with a speech on women's rights, a lunch with the Indian Prime Minister and an evening reception at the American Embassy in New Delhi, Mrs. Clinton undertakes a midnight economic development mission: She buys several chain-stitched rugs at the National Cottage Emporium in the Sheraton Hotel. The Kashmiri proprietor, Manzoor Wangnoo (a salesman straight from Central Casting) coins a new title worthy of a major Mem sahib: "Her Ladyship." Mrs. Clinton's Deputy Chief of Staff, Melanne Verveer, becomes "Her Deputy Ladyship."

March 30. Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea visit the white marble meringue of a mausoleum that is the Taj Mahal.



Associated Press

It was Saturday, so it must have been Egypt. During a refueling, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton visit Giza.

Inside, Chelsea says: "When I was little, this was sort of the embodiment of the fairy-tale palace for me. I would see pictures of it and would dream I was a princess or whatever. Now that I'm here it's spectacular."

Mrs. Clinton's press secretary, Lisa Caputo, plays a tape of the comment for reporters who did not hear it. But after television correspondents asked if Chelsea, whose privacy is zealously guarded by the White House and respected by reporters, will repeat the remarks on camera, Ms. Caputo declares the words off the record

altogether. After some pointed discussions about genies and bottles and a consultation with Mrs. Clinton, Ms. Caputo relents.

April 1. Bound in a few minutes for a safari in the Chitwan National Forest, aboard a fleet of lumbering elephants. No phone, no fax, some fuss. The quarry: the elusive and endangered royal Bengal tiger. The real trophy: a picture of Mrs. Clinton on an elephant. So far her office has resisted that mightily. But the forest has a thousand eyes.

N.Y. Times
Sunday, April 2, 1995

Hillary Clinton's Trip: Women's Voice

By TODD S. PURDUM

NEW DELHI, March 29 — Half-way around the world from the battles that haunt her, an outspoken American woman found a new voice today in the words of an Indian schoolgirl, who composed a poem called "Silence" and sent it to Hillary Rodham Clinton with the handwritten exhortation: "More power to you."

"Too many women in too many countries speak the same language — of silence," Mrs. Clinton said in a speech, quoting the poem by Anasuya Sengupta, a senior at the Lady Sri Ram College here. "My grandmother was always silent, always aggrieved, only her husband had the cosmic right (or so it was said) to speak and be heard."

"They say it is different now," Mrs. Clinton read on, her voice catching just a bit at the end of her speech at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, a research institute here. "But sometimes, I wonder. When a woman expresses her love, as most do, generally, it is accepted. When a woman shares her thoughts, as some women do, graciously, it is allowed."

"When a woman fights for power, as all women would like to, quietly or loudly, it is questioned," Mrs. Clinton continued, still quoting the poem. "And yet, there must be freedom, if we are to speak. And yes, there must be power, if we are to be heard. And when we have both (freedom and power), let us not be misunderstood."

The poem had special resonance here in the world's largest democracy, where the birth of a daughter can still be an occasion for dread, where brides are beaten or burned if their families resist in-laws' demands for a higher dowry and where sexual harassment is commonplace.

But the First Lady, who has so often felt misunderstood and who has kept her own counsel in the months since the collapse of her health care drive, seemed to be speaking as much to herself and her fellow Americans as to the students in the balcony who exploded in applause.

"I read it and I was just overwhelmed by it," Mrs. Clinton said of the poem, which was given to her by the college's principal, Dr. Lakshi Gopinath, at a women's luncheon at the American embassy on Tuesday. "And so I was thinking last night about the speech today, and I rewrote large parts of it so that I could use the poem. I think it expressed the feelings that all of us share, that women's voices should be heard and that silence is not appro-

A schoolgirl in India looks at the plight of women.

priate for women in their own lives, and women in the larger world."

Silent is one thing Mrs. Clinton has not been on this official goodwill visit to five South Asian countries, a journey that her Wellesley classmate Martha Teichner, who is covering the tour for CBS News, described jocularly on the air as a "chick trip." It blends the giddiness of a sorority spring break with the sober feel of a graduate seminar on the responsibilities of sisterhood.

Traveling with her entourage of senior aides, almost all of whom are women, the First Lady has sought to straddle the dichotomies of a region where most women remain subjugated, and where others have become pioneers in high political office only at the price of widowhood or parental assassination.

Mrs. Clinton has steered clear of some policy problems like nuclear proliferation that have long bedeviled United States relations with India and Pakistan, focusing instead on the importance of educating girls and women. An hourlong meeting today with Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao produced only the word that they had discussed how to improve Government performance and economic development.

In her speech today she said that the first installment in a new ten-year international aid program for educating girls and women would come to India, and the amount, \$500,000, was modest enough that she did not even mention it.

At the same time, the First Lady has appeared both freer — and a good deal funnier — than she has seemed at home in some time, even if the South Asia she has seen is a freshly paved, tightly secured and somewhat sanitized version of the real thing.

In Pakistan, the First Lady, a Midwestern-born Methodist, awoke at dawn to the prayer call of a muezzin sounding over the loudspeaker of a mosque, and shared with schoolgirls her thoughts on the politics of meaning and her worries that the "rampant materialism and consumerism" of Western countries is now poised to threaten developing ones.

Asked to name her idol by one ninth-grade English student in the

middle-class village of Burki, outside Lahore in eastern Pakistan, Mrs. Clinton replied, "At my age, I don't think I have anyone anymore." Asked by another girl if she had any nicknames, the First Lady replied dryly: "Some people have, I would imagine, quite rude nicknames for me."

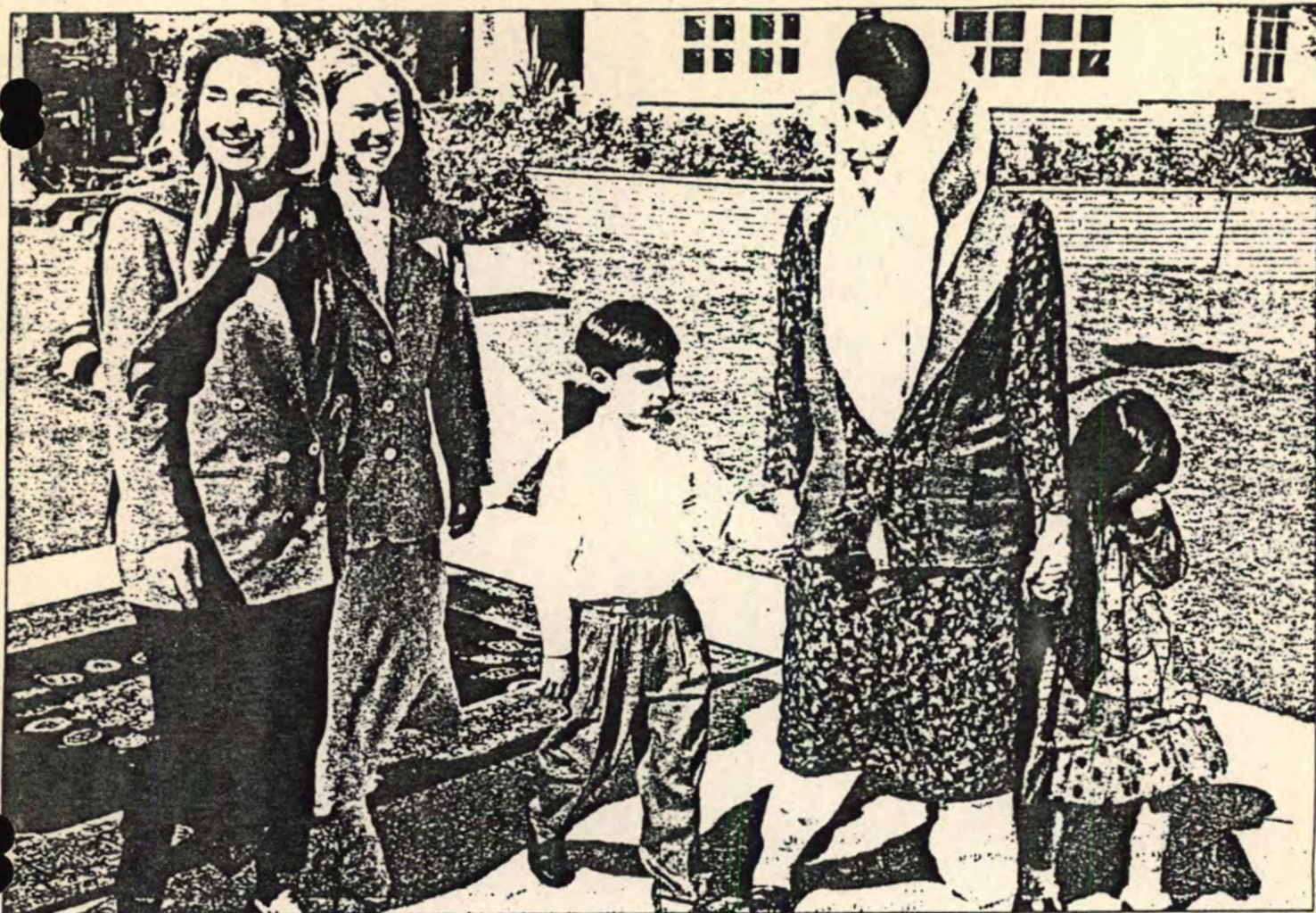
Radiant in a billowy red silk shalwar kameez, the traditional Pakistani pajama-style pants suit, she joked to reporters after a moonlight official dinner in the red stone ruins of the Mogul fort at Lahore that she was thinking of experimenting with such a wardrobe back home, in place of the much-remarked past changes in her hairstyle.

In Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity orphanage in New Delhi, she cuddled and cooed at months-old babies with the ease of an experienced mother, never blanching when one little girl tugged at the large gold-and-pearl eagle pinned on her lapel. If she misses a sight or misremembers a story, her 15-year-old daughter Chelsea is there to point it out or correct her with exquisite poise and an air of friendship that would be the envy of most mothers.

"Educating girls is not something that is seen as something to put in banner headlines," she told a group at the Islamabad College for Girls in Pakistan, but "it is something that will change a country if it is done."

THE NEW YORK TIMES INTERNATIONAL THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1995

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Associated Press

Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea with Benazir Bhutto and her children at the prime minister's residence after lunch.

Mrs. Clinton Finds Kindred Spirit in Bhutto

■ **Asia:** The two, alumnae of Yale and Harvard, share views on role of women and the hazards of political prominence.

By JOHN THOR DAHLBURG
TIMES STAFF WRITER

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—The venue Sunday was Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's sprawling hilltop mansion, the guest of honor First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the topic the position of women in the world.

"I know that much remains to be done in every society, in both of our countries, to ensure that women assume their rightful place and are given the opportunities to exercise their rights, but I am very optimistic [about] what I see happening in the world," Mrs. Clinton said at the luncheon.

On the first full day of her five-nation trip across the subcontinent—a 12-day voyage that will focus on the status of women and children in the vast, largely impoverished region—Mrs. Clinton met with some of the female movers and shakers in Pakistani society: politicians, doctors, entrepreneurs and judges.

And for the first time, she made the acquaintance of the Harvard-educated Bhutto, who, to laughter from the guests, said she was honored to greet a "daughter of Yale."

Obviously sensing a kindred spirit in the Yale Law School alumna, the prime minister praised the wife of President Clinton "as both tough and a great leader."

"Women who take on tough issues and stake out new territory are often on the receiving end of ignorance. I can personally attest to that," Bhutto said.

Once the darling of Pakistanis who saw her as the best hope for democracy and

social justice after decades of military rule, Bhutto, 41, now faces a strident political opposition and criticism from some supporters that she has failed to check violence, terrorism and widespread corruption.

At the luncheon, she ticked off a list of her government's efforts in its "frontal assault on the institutional discrimination against women in our society." They included reserving 10% of the jobs in the federal bureaucracy for women, a bank run by women for women, special women's police stations and plans to train 100,000 female health care workers.

But many women's activists say Bhutto has done little since her election victory in October, 1993, to better the lot of most female citizens of a male-dominated country where the strains of Islamic traditionalism and feudalism run deep.

It is a critique Mrs. Clinton will no doubt hear again on her travels through South Asia, despite the fact that three of the five countries she will visit—Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka—are headed by women, all of whom are the daughters or widows of former rulers.

"Having a female prime minister may give the impression that progress is being made here," said Mehnaz Raffi, who chairs Pakistan's Women's Rights Commission and is an unabashed Bhutto critic, "but at the grass-roots level, nothing has really changed. The condition of women is the same, whether there is a man or a woman at the helm."

In Pakistan, only 20 women in 100 can read and write, and the average woman has had 0.7 years of schooling. In India, 39% of the women are literate, but two of every three people who cannot read are women.

The South Asian trip consolidates Mrs. Clinton's new role as a global advocate on women's and children's issues, which present less of a political minefield than her controversial efforts toward health care

reform last year.

Earlier this month, the First Lady appeared at a poverty summit in Copenhagen and a women's conference at the United Nations. At the luncheon in Islamabad, she told the guests, "As we invest in women and girls, we invest in men, we invest in the future, we invest in our society." Although well-to-do families in Pakistan and other countries of the subcontinent would concur, equal treatment for daughters is the exception rather than the rule.

"Boys are looked at as breadwinners, but girls aren't. Education, spending on the doctor, everything first goes to boys, and then to girls," said Noor Jehan Panezai, the first woman elected to Pakistan's Senate.

Mrs. Clinton's visit is the first to the region by a President's wife since Jacqueline Kennedy came to Pakistan and India in 1962.

Throughout the region, non-governmental organizations are working to better the lives and prospects of women and children. Mrs. Clinton plans to view a broad sample of the groups' efforts, including a women's school in Islamabad, an orphanage run by Mother Teresa's nuns in New Delhi, a women's trade union in Ahmedabad, India's textile capital, and a bank in Bangladesh that lends money to village women.

In Pakistan, Administration officials said Mrs. Clinton also will be seeking to demonstrate respect for Islam and make it clear that Americans do not equate the Muslim faith with extremism or terrorism.

Accompanied by her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, the First Lady spent 35 minutes after lunch touring Islamabad's white marble Faisal Mosque, whose immense prayer chamber, designed to resemble a desert tent, rises more than 130 feet in the air.

"I love all the light. It's so beautiful, the natural light and the chandeliers," Mrs. Clinton said.



Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, wore traditional Islamic scarves yesterday during their visit to Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, Pakistan, after meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

A Clinton and a Bhutto Share a Joke in Pakistan

By TODD S. PURDUM

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, March 26 — Hillary Rodham Clinton, admired and attacked as a strong woman in her own country, came to Pakistan today to admire and consult with another one: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who greeted the First Lady at a luncheon for prominent women with a sisterly joke on the perils of power.

"The First Lady does not know it, but according to newspapers in Pakistan, Mr. Asif Zardari is de facto prime minister of the country," Ms. Bhutto said, referring to her husband, who is often painted as a sinister threat behind the throne and who had met Mrs. Clinton's plane on her arrival in a driving rain 12 hours earlier. "He says, 'Only the First Lady can appreciate it's not true.'"

In fact, Mrs. Clinton's first stop on her 12-day, five-nation official visit to South Asia was a study in the subtle role of spouse without portfolio. In her biggest solo venture since the collapse of her health care plan last year, she is re-introducing herself as a First Lady not only of the land but also of the world, wading into a region thick with the geopolitical goo of nuclear proliferation, financial aid and human rights abuses.

Mrs. Clinton's aides said most of those issues had come up, at least elliptically, in a 25-minute private talk with Ms. Bhutto, but Mrs. Clinton did not raise them. And the First Lady's staff made it clear that such an agenda is the stuff of Ms. Bhutto's scheduled meeting with Mr. Clinton in Washington next month. The Prime Minister is likely to try once again to assure Washington that her country is not trying to develop nuclear weapons, the possibility of which has been the main irritant in American-Pakistani relations and has led to a Congressional ban on any new aid since 1990.

On this trip to Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, Mrs. Clinton is determined to emphasize what she calls "the human issues" of health, education and social progress, especially for women and children in a place of dreadful poverty. Those causes are no less complex if slightly less controversial than some others she has taken on, and consistent with her interests over the last 25 years.

After praising the uphill efforts of Ms. Bhutto (Radcliffe, '73) to improve the lot of women and encourage family planning in a country



The New York Times

Islamabad was the first stop of Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit.

where the average woman bears six children and is restricted to the role of wife and mother, Mrs. Clinton (Wellesley, '69) added "a particular word of thanks for your emphasis on children."

"It is an emphasis that is the most important in my personal opinion because by investing in the education and health of children, we are saying that the future is worthwhile—that every child will be given the opportunity to live up to his or her God-given potential," Mrs. Clinton told the group of about 60 women at the Prime Minister's official residence in the shadow of the Margal Hills above the city.

Minutes later, as if to make the point, Mrs. Clinton strolled the grounds with her daughter, Chelsea, Ms. Bhutto and two of her children. Then the Clintons paid their respects to Islam by visiting the cavernous Faisal Mosque, financed by the Saudi royal family beginning in the 1970's, where Secret Service agents in stocking feet kept a respectful distance and Chelsea, who is on spring vacation from school where she has been studying Islam in a 11th grade history class, asked well-formed questions.

For her part, Ms. Bhutto said: "and the rest of the people of Pakistan have been utterly fascinated by the First Lady's heroic efforts to bravely restructure the responsibilities of the office of First Lady and to provide caring and sensible leadership on the key social issues of the modern era. Women who take tough issues and stake out new territory are often on the receiving end of ignorance."

First Lady Begins Tour Of South Asian Region

Trip Highlights Women's, Children's Issues

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Foreign Service

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, March 26—First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today began a 10-day South Asian tour highlighting women's and children's issues in a region where oppression of women and girls is considered more prevalent than almost anywhere in the world.

The first lady's trip—which is to include visits to villages, schools and an orphanage run by Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity—is designed to put a more human face on U.S. policy in socially troubled South Asia after recent trips by Clinton cabinet members focusing primarily on national security and trade issues.

White House officials also hope the tour through Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will provide the first lady some political rehabilitation after the battering she took with the defeat of the health care reform program that she oversaw during her husband's first two years in the White House.

In a region where the United States has some of its weakest national security, business and social links, and where anti-American sentiment is always a component of domestic political agendas, the first lady is studiously attempting to avoid any potential controversies.

Her staff said repeatedly today that she does not plan to initiate discussions involving the sensitive issues of nuclear proliferation or human rights. In interviews prior to her departure from Washington, Clinton said, "I'm not about to go and try to tell anybody what to do."

That may prove difficult on a trip focused on women's issues to a region where three governments are led by women who are frequently criticized by women's organizations for doing too little to help the oppressed women of their

Third World nations. There are few parts of the world that can match South Asia for the pervasiveness of social discrimination against women, ranging from female infanticide, dowry deaths and bride burnings to the practice in Islamic Pakistan of jailing women on charges of adultery when they report they have been raped.

Even Clinton's low-key agenda is far more substantive than that pursued by Jacqueline Kennedy when she toured Pakistan and India as first lady in 1962. The local press commented primarily on Kennedy's wardrobe and camel-riding skills.

Today, the first day of her tour, Clinton basked in the symbolism of powerful women sharing mutual concerns. In a meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Clinton ate a lobster lunch with some of the most successful women politicians, artists and leaders of a country where repression of women is endemic. The first lady donned a scarf and discarded her shoes to tour one of the Islamic country's largest mosques.

In opening remarks at a lunch hosted by Bhutto, Clinton said she hoped her trip to Pakistan would "reaffirm the partnership and friendship between our two countries."

That friendship has been severely strained in the last several years by U.S. criticism of Pakistan's nuclear program and Washington's 1990 decision to sever all military and most social aid to a country that had served as its front-line facilitator in the 1979-89 Soviet-Afghanistan war. The U.S. State Department also has been highly critical of Pakistan's failure to control drug trafficking and terrorism, at one point threatening to declare its old ally a terrorist state.

Bhutto, who will visit the United States next month, has recently said she would welcome U.S. efforts to assist Pakistan in apprehending terrorists, especially in



REUTERS
Hillary Rodham Clinton and Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto talk at lunch in Islamabad. The first lady's visit to Pakistan was the first stop of a 10-day, five-nation tour of South Asia that will include visits to villages, schools and an orphanage run by Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity.

the aftermath of the shooting two weeks ago in Karachi in which two American consulate employees were killed and a third injured.

Today, however, Bhutto stressed her kinship with Clinton and the barbs both have endured in their roles as strong women in politics.

"Women who take on tough issues and stake out new territory are often on the receiving end of ignorance," said Bhutto, wearing over her head the trademark scarf her father warned her always to wear in public in this strict Muslim society that discourages women from assuming public roles.

Bhutto skipped references to other things the Bhutto and Clinton administrations have in common: Both are under extreme pressure from opposition parties and are in deep political trouble in their respective countries.

At the luncheon table, Clinton was sandwiched between Bhutto and her mother, Nusrat Bhutto. The two Bhutto women have engaged in an acrimonious public feud since the mother sided with Benazir Bhutto's brother—who opposes the prime minister politically—during Bhutto's election bid 1½ years ago.

At today's lunch, Nusrat Bhutto began devouring a salad with her fingers before the guest of honor sat down, and then made a show of reading the menu during Clinton's brief speech, drawing embarrassed

looks from others seated at the table.

According to White House and regional embassy officials, the Clinton journey across the subcontinent was conceived by Elizabeth Moynihan, the wife of Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), a former ambassador to India. Elizabeth Moynihan pressed the first lady for the past year to make a trip to India to examine women's issues.

In the protocol of regional U.S. diplomatic relations, however, Hillary Clinton could not visit India without calling on India's neighbor and longtime enemy, Pakistan. To those two stops, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were added.

Chelsea Clinton accompanied her mother, and the 15-year-old stole some of the show today. During a tour of the Faisal Mosque tucked against the Margalla Hills on the edge of the capital city, the Clintons' daughter peppered the tour guide with detailed questions about the mosque and Islam. The first lady explained that her 10th-grade daughter recently had been studying Islamic history at Sidwell Friends School.

As for the first lady's homework, Hillary Clinton stayed up last night to read parts of Bhutto's autobiography, "Daughter of Destiny," before meeting the prime minister this morning.



Reuters

Hillary Rodham Clinton (right) chats with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at a dinner in Lahore.

First lady makes a pitch for women

In Pakistan, Hillary stresses importance of opportunity

By Gene Gibbons
REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

LAHORE, Pakistan — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, on the second day of an extensive goodwill mission, urged gender-conscious South Asia yesterday to give women a greater role.

Speaking at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, a famed business school in Pakistan, the first lady said: "If women don't thrive, the world won't thrive."

Mrs. Clinton's message stated the theme of her 20,000-mile trip to five of the world's poorest countries: Improving the lives of women and children by giving them more education, health care and opportunity is a global social necessity.

She is visiting Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in 12 days. She was preparing to visit India last night.

"Investing in the health and education of women and girls is essential to achieving global prosperity.

We have seen in parts of Asia and South America that the education of girls can help lift whole populations out of poverty," she said.

"Investing in human capital, building the human infrastructure and enhancing human productivity ought to be our common concern," she said.

Mrs. Clinton, accompanied on her trip by her 15-year-old daughter, Chelsea, delivered the speech after touring a clinic and school for girls and visiting a family in a village 12 miles from Lahore.

She showed a sense of humor about the controversy surrounding her effort to expand the traditional role of U.S. first ladies when a student asked her if she had a nickname.

"My nickname? Well, it depends on who you talk to," she said. "Some people, I would imagine, have quite rude nicknames for me."

Before leaving Islamabad earlier in the day, Mrs. Clinton conducted a seminar with more than

a dozen young women at a college for girls on the problems of women in the modern world.

For nearly an hour, she and the students talked about how to mix careers and marriage, the importance of education and the raising of children.

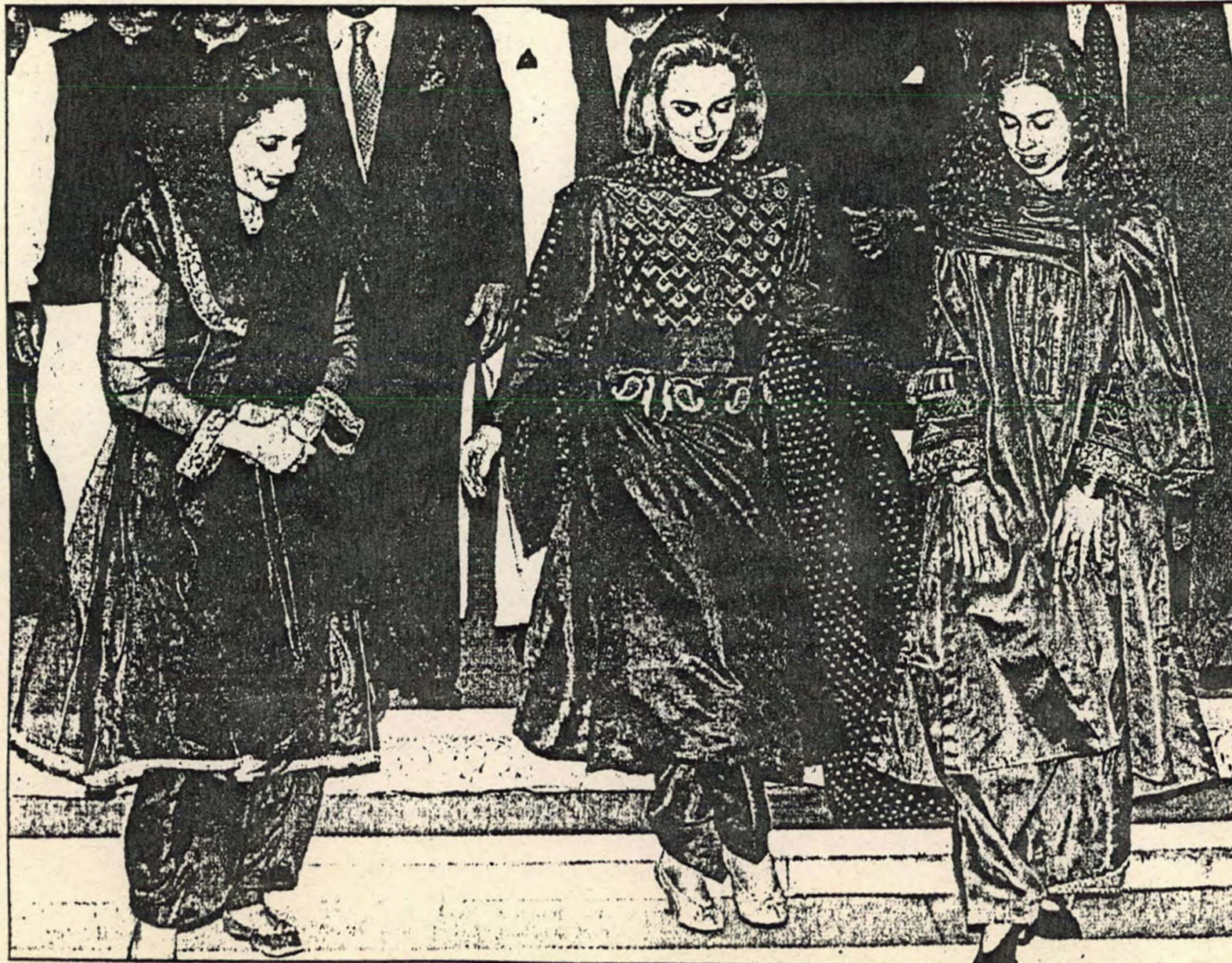
Asked what was the greatest challenge facing the United States, Mrs. Clinton may have had her husband's battles with the Republican-controlled Congress over budgetary priorities in mind when she replied:

"It's like many countries. There is a constant struggle between what to do today and what to do in order to invest for tomorrow."

She was to conclude her visit to Pakistan with a dinner and entertainment at Lahore's historic Red Fort, built by Mogul emperor Jehangir in 1550 as a palace for his family and government and now used only rarely for social functions.

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WHEN IN PAKISTAN ...



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto walks with Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton after the three, all wearing Pakist

dressess, attended a reception yesterday in Lahore. Earlier, the first lady spoke at a business school to urge a greater role for women. Story, A13.

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CLIPS - FOREIGN

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The Nation

Date: March 21, 1995 -

Islamabad

Page: 2

In Hillary's visit, history to repeat itself

By Ishtiaq Ahmad

ISLAMABAD - It was March 26, 1964, when Jacqueline Kennedy, the then first lady of the United States, had visited Pakistan. She was presented a black horse by Field Marshal Ayub Khan, and the Governor of West Pakistan had hosted a dinner in her honour. She was accompanied by her sister.

Coincidentally, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the first lady of the US today, will visit Pakistan on the same date 31 years after Jacqueline's visit. The Punjab Governor will host a dinner in her

honour. Whether or not Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto plans to gift Hillary any horse, maybe from amongst her husband Zardari's grand collection of world's most expensive horses, is not yet clear. Hillary will be accompanied by her only daughter Chelsea.

Ever since Bill Clinton's take over of the White House, Hillary has remained quite a controversial figure in America. She has been criticised for acting frequently as the de facto President of the United States.

Some argue that President Clinton has taken many of his drastic domestic reforms decisions, such as those pertaining to health-care, restoration of family values, under the influence of his wife. Others say that she has every right to do so for being the first lady, the fact that the majority of the American people had voted for the person of Clinton not his wife in elections that brought Clinton to power notwithstanding.

Family, work and public service, Hillary says, are three elements of the balance of life she seeks. It's a goal she apparently continues to achieve in her role as President Clinton's closest advisor, strong advocate of women's and children's rights, defender of the arts, and activist for social and educational reforms.

Twice named to the National Law Journal's list of America's 100 best

lawyers, Hillary, 47, is the only first lady in the US history to have had a prestigious professional career as well-established as her husband's at the time of his election to the presidency. (Before becoming president, Mr Clinton was Governor of the Arkansas state).

She was included on the list of America's most powerful lawyers in recognition of her membership on corporate boards and her record as senior partner at an Arkansas law firm where she was an "innovative litigator," says one leading American journalist Garry Wills.

Hillary has spoken out on a range of priority issues for Americans and has been described as "the most important White House advisor on domestic issues." Upon taking office, Mr Clinton made health-care one of his highest priorities and appointed her to head his task force on national health-care reforms.

Hillary Clinton has also been active in the interna-

tional arena and has travelled with the US president on most of his trips abroad, including Russia, France, Japan, Germany and the Philippines.

In South Asia, she will visit Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. Her daughter Chelsea, 16, in the words of Hillary herself, is "someone who is very much part of what we do and in the concerns we share. She had a very good adjustment to living in the White House. Born on October 26, 1947, Hillary entered Wellesley College, near Boston, Massachusetts, where she majored in Political Science. She then enrolled in Yale Law School, in New Haven, Connecticut. While at Yale, she met Bill Clinton.

Margaret Williams, chief of staff for the first lady, says, "Hillary encourages everyone to give their opinion. She does not like people tip-toeing around her. She is clear that it's important that people tell her what is working. It's even more important that people tell her what is not working."



Benazir apprises Hillary of abuses in Kashmir

First Lady praises govt's steps to curb terrorism;
many multinationals to invest in Pakistan

By Shakil Shaikh

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto proved herself a tough pleader of a national cause whenever an opportunity falls and she again did it Sunday when she told US First Lady Hillary Clinton that the core issue of Kashmir should be resolved under UN resolutions.

Availing the opportunity, the prime minister went an extra mile to apprise the US First Lady of two important issues: resolution of core issue of Kashmir between India and Pakistan; and the main irritants in the Pak-US relations — neither supplying the paid-for defence equipment, including crucial F-16s, nor returning the money.

Ms Bhutto raised these questions before Mrs Clinton in formal talks between the two held before the luncheon hosted by the former in honour of the visiting dignitary from Washington. Pakistan side was represented by Secretary Foreign Affairs Najmuddin Shaikh and Additional Secretary Agha Zafar Hilali while the US side comprised Ambassador John C Monjo and Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Robin Raphel. There were also some other low-level officials present there.

According to official sources, Ms Bhutto informed Mrs Clinton about the brutalities being unleashed on women in Indian held Kashmir and gross violations of human rights going on at the hands of Indian security forces. "There is a dire need to resolve this core issue of Kashmir between the two South Asian nations," stressed the premier.

Ms Bhutto indirectly sought Mrs Clinton's help to settle Pak-US issue pertaining to defence purchases. "Pressler has not served the purpose; it's a blunt law and even Americans are now realizing that this law is a discriminatory piece of legislation which should go. The Clinton administration should either deliver the equipment or return the money paid for this equipment, which included purchases for three forces," Bhutto told the US First Lady.

While Ms Bhutto touched upon measures her government has taken or being taken for welfare of women, children, eradication of drug menace, population planning, social welfare and campaign against polio, the First

Lady conveyed her and Clinton's admiration to the leadership of the prime minister.

"Specially, the president and I appreciate the measures your government had taken against terrorism and those who believe in violence," Mrs Clinton told Bhutto, according to official sources.

The US First Lady also informed the premier about the enthusiasm in US pertaining to economic policy of her government. "A number of US private investors are showing interest to take up projects in Pakistan and there is tremendous interest to come to Pakistan for investment," she said. The talks between the two lasted for 20 minutes. Following these talks, the two ladies also delivered speeches at the luncheon.

While highly praising Mrs Clinton and her efforts for noble causes, Ms Bhutto termed her a great leader for the cause of health care and cause of children.

"I and the rest of the people of Pakistan have been utterly fascinated by the First Lady's heroic efforts to redefine the role of women in America, to substantively restructure the responsibilities of the office of First Lady, and to provide caring and sensitive leadership on the key social issues of the modern era."

She described Mrs Clinton as both tough and a great leader. "We too made a frontal assault on institutional discrimination against women in our society," the premier added.

Highlighting the steps her government had taken in different sectors of social welfare, the prime minister said, "We have guaranteed that at least ten percent of all federal bureaucratic jobs will be reserved for the women of Pakistan. And we have established a women's development bank for small female entrepreneurs, a bank run by women for women, where men can keep their money but cannot borrow".

She said we have established special women police stations which were staffed by women. And for the first time in the history of our nation, women jurists are being appointed to the highest courts in our land.

About the future plans of her government, Ms Bhutto

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Benazir apprises Hillary of abuses in Kashmir

Continued from Page 1

said her government plans to train a hundred thousand lady health workers to teach family planning and maternal health so that women can make the most fundamental choices of their lives for themselves, and this is just the beginning for a new Pakistan.

In her address, Mrs Clinton said, "Her visit will reaffirm the partnership and friendship between the two countries and also between the people of these countries."

Showing her delight for this opportunity to have the chance to meet some of the women who according to her are breaking new ground, she lauded the role of the prime minister and her leadership. "It has demonstrated clearly that this country, which has got such a great and rich history, has also a great and rich future."

The US First Lady said, "What Ms Bhutto has done to recognize the great potential of this country as being tied with the great potential of its women is something that makes common sense and is giving all of us hope that as we invest in women and girls, we invest in men, we invest in the future, we invest in our society."

She added, "I also want to say a particular word of thanks for your

emphasis on children. It is an emphasis that is the most important in my personal opinion because by investing in the education and health of children, we are saying that the future is worthwhile, that every child will be given the opportunity to live up to his or her God-given potential." She stressed that both the countries should ensure that women assume their rightful place and are given the opportunities to exercise their rights.

The luncheon was attended by about 46 leading women, including seven Americans, while others representing different walks of life. They include Begum Nusrat Bhutto; Noorjehan Panzai, Aisha Jalal, Justice Talat Yaqoob, Kaneez Fatima Yousaf, Akram Khatoon, Shari Rehman, Tahira Mazhar Ali, Madam Noorjehan, Abida Parveen, Asma Jehangir, Hina Gillani, Jugno Mohsin, Amna Paracha, Qulsoom Saifullah, Begum Abbas Khattack, Salima Hashmi, Naveed Azfar, Bilqees Edhi, Noorul Huda, Rana Shaikh, Fiza Junejo, Samina Pirzada, Nasira Iqbal, Parveen Atif, Navid A Rahat, Rehana Seigol, Nirmeen, Shahid Najma Hussain and many others.

The luncheon was followed by a cultural show, where famous Kathak dancer Naheed Siddiqui performed for 20 minutes.



Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto hosted a luncheon in honour of US first lady Hillary Clinton.—Photo by I. Shahzad

The News
Page 2 of 2
March 27, 1995

A chance for America

The extent of Pakistani elite's self-imposed dependence on the US power structure is being illustrated in gross detail as the date for our elected prime minister's tour of the land of Uncle Sam approaches nearer. In all fairness to the present set of our rulers, however, it must be recognised that the hullabaloo in this case being raised more by the non-governing sections of the elite, particularly the print media, than by the government itself. The result has been that all of Ms Bhutto's seemingly conscious efforts at projecting her forthcoming visit in a more respectable framework of bilateral relations between two sovereign states, have been of no avail.

No, we cannot possibly underrate the epochal significance of the prime minister of Pakistan actually having lunch—in person—with President Bill Clinton—in the White House—on April whatever. Hurray! The do is still on; nothing to worry about. Even the killing of two Americans in Karachi has not changed that. Thank God for it and let's also pray that none of His (or otherwise) befalls in the interim to cast even the hint of a shadow on the grand event. Let's also hope that, unlike the trivial mix-up at the time of General Zia's trip to Washington, President Clinton gets the name of Prime Minister Bhutto's country right.

After all, with so much of democracy going around, who would blame the ever-cheerful Mr Clinton if he were to turn around and ask Ms Bhutto how things were back home in Hong Kong? We have not intended to draw a connection here between Karachi and Hong Kong, nor would that possibly be the case with President Hillary, oops, Bill Clinton. Nevertheless, talking of Karachi, we still need to keep our fingers crossed. "The World's News Leader", yes, who else but the CNN, continues to refer to the city where they shot dead two Americans, as the capital of Pakistan. The only consolation is that news would at times refuse to be led by the nose, even by this leader.

At any rate, the present writer hereby invokes the democratic licence to outrageousness in suggesting that the United States should be more excited than Pakistan at the prospect of Ms Bhutto's visit there. The audacity in stating this would hopefully make some sense as we proceed below to clarify it. The upshot of the case is that the United States needs Pakistan more than we need them today. We would even go

so far as to state, with full sense of responsibility, that a strong and stable Pakistan can offer the only viable guarantee for the continued politico-economic relevance of the United States—together with Britain, Russian and to a lesser extent France—to the entire Muslim stretch between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

The tragedy of the moment lies not as much in any Western inability to appreciate this key importance of Pakistan as in this country's own failure to claim the unique position. Having said that, however, it must also be noted that although the West does seem to have a broad realisation of Pakistan's potential in this regard, the former is anything but either helping or encouraging the latter to play its due role. Consequently, the historic opportunity is slipping away. Nor is it an opportunity without an attendant challenge of stability for much of the Muslim world, including Pakistan.

Thus, even as any number of formal policy statements by Washington in recent days have gratefully acknowledged Islamabad's "moderating influence" on other Muslim countries, the United States continues to jeopardise this very role of Pakistan. That is being done through overt as also covert means, both adding up not only to a debilitating effect on Pakistan's current ability to play its desirable role in the Muslim world but also, in effect, to hastening the process of instability in this entire region.

Although the present US agenda for Pakistan is much too multifarious for it to be treated exhaustively in these columns, it is at once striking how Washington has somehow managed to delude itself into believing that the moderate character of this

country (and not just of the present government which it values so much) can withstand all demands and pressures of immoderation.

Unlike the totalitarian 'Islam' of Saudi Arabia at one end and the secularism of Turkey at the other, both of which have been enforced from above, the Islamic moorings of Pakistan have been put in place by the people of this land as a matter of free choice at the time of independence from the British colonial empire. And, as democratic mandates usually go, it was a deliberate decision in favour of moderation as represented in the person of the undisputed leader, the Quaid-e-Azam. The same ethos has time and again been reaffirmed by the Muslim masses of Pakistan at election time.

This essential identity of the Pakistani nation is a sine qua non not only of stability within the country but also, proceeding from the same basis, of Pakistan's exercising a healthy, moderating influence on the Muslim world. There really is no basic contradiction between the demands on this count and the (presumable) Western desire of averting anarchy in the volatile Muslim region between South Asia and North Africa. It is just that the framework of a common agenda for the purpose has to be clearly defined, understood and fully respected by both sides. That is necessary not only to set out the extent but also the ground rules, so to speak, of a partnership which Pakistan has to offer and which is, quite clearly, the only feasible option available to the West.

We can for the present dispense with an account of the potential. As already stated, Washington does appear mindful of it. However, it is the converse side of the darts which needs to be emphasised. That takes us back to the inherently moderate character of this nation which must not be abused one way or the other.

In other words, it is an equally grave mistake to promote religious extremism through the sectarian strife as it is to employ Pakistan as an instrument of the Western militaristic agenda in the Muslim world. Both can backfire and, apart from destabilising this country, can exercise a disruptive influence on the Muslim lands much beyond Pakistan's frontiers. As in this case, a pivotal position can be made to work either way.

That is the threshold on which the foundations of a new relationship between Pakistan and the West ought to be raised if a meaningful beginning toward underwriting stability in the Muslim world is genuinely intended. The inclusion of this caveat of supposition is necessitated by Washington's continued adherence to the self-inflicting blueprint of antagonising Muslim peoples as being exemplified even now through the so-called "double-containment" policy on Iran, not to mention the embargoes on Iraq and Libya.

Nevertheless, one can only hope that the new political wave within the United States to reclaim that great nation's interests from whosoever has been holding them hostage, would come to prevail before the world is pushed into an avoidable religious conflagration of unprecedented magnitude.

As for Pakistan, the dilemma of the US in transition has already been brought to the fore through the simultaneous warring of two conflicting tracks. On the one hand, Washington has of late shown a remarkable understanding of Islamabad's security concerns as also of this country's "moderate" character. On the other, Pakistan continues to be subjected to any number of destabilising influences.

However, given the larger stakes involved in Pakistan's strength and stability, there is no room for such ambivalence. Nor does the fast radicalising situation in large parts of the Muslim world, not excluding Pakistan itself, allow much time. It is thus that the forthcoming visit of the Pakistani prime minister to the United States offers a landmark chance—not in terms of a photo opportunity for Ms Bhutto, but for America to translate the pivotal importance of Pakistan into a mutually respectable partnership for peace and stability in the world.

International
The News

March 26, 1995

THE MUSLIM

Date: March 27, 1995

Islamabad

Page: 1

Hillary meets outstanding ladies of Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, March 26: In the colourful surroundings and splendour of the Prime Minister House, some of Pakistan's most distinguished women had the rare opportunity of meeting on Sunday the First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The assemblage of over 50 prominent women who have blazed a new trail in various fields of life in Pakistan included politicians, judges of the superior judiciary, writers and poets, pilots, film stars, scientists, lawyers, musicians, painters, educationists, architects, editors and human rights campaigners.

Prominent among them were Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Dr Nurejehan Panezai, Kishwar Naheed, Asma Jahangir, Madam Nur Jehan and her daughter Zil-e-Huma, Ayesha Jalal, Tahira Mazhar Ali Khan, Khalida Rashid, Nasira Iqbal, Talat Yaqoob Sherry Rehman, Jugnu Mohsin, Akram Khatoon, Samina Pirzada, Abida Parveen, Naheed Siddiqui, Bilqees Edhi, Nurul Hudda Shah, Shirin Pasha, Salima Hashmi and Ayesha Rabia.

Some of the prominent women including novelist Bapsi Sidhwa, the former Ambassador Shaista Ikramullah, poet Zohra Nigah, Khawar Mumtaz, lawyer Shaheen Sardar Ali and labour leader Kaneez Fatima had declined the invitation but without giving any reason.

At the banquet table, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto sat to the left of Hillary Clinton while Begum Nusrat Bhutto was on her right.

Prime Minister Bhutto was dressed in white 'Dupatta' and 'Shalwar' and red 'Kameez.' The

Hillary meets

From Page 1

First Lady was dressed in black long skirt and turquoise jacket. Her daughter Chelsea was dressed in fawn-coloured long skirt and jacket.

On arrival, Mrs Clinton was introduced to the distinguished guests.

Madam Nur Jehan and her singer daughter Zill-e-Huma were introduced to the visiting dignitary by Prime Minister Bhutto. Madam Nur Jehan's introduction was perhaps the longest one. While introducing her the Prime Minister described her as the Nightingale of Pakistan who was a source of pride to the country.

Ms Hillary Clinton apparently well-briefed about the renowned

singer said she had heard about Madam Nur Jehan and Lata Mangeshkar being the top most play back singers of the sub-continent.

The Madam was in an upbeat mood and much elated. While introducing Zil-e-Huma, the Prime Minister said that she was following in the footsteps of her mother.

Prime Minister Bhutto's three children were present in the luncheon.

Giving her impressions about her meeting with Prime Minister Bhutto and the US First Lady, Madam Nure Jehan told The Muslim that she was immensely pleased over the honour bestowed on her by the Prime Minister. She said this was the first time that she was invited to a high-profile state reception.

Contd. Page 4 Col. 6

Hillary goes from cradle to cradle

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 28

The US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today said the purpose of her visit to India was to learn more about its heritage and culture and that her country had a lot to learn from and share with this ancient civilisation.

India, she remarked, was a marvellous example of love and affection where diverse peoples live in harmony with one another.

Here on the second leg of her five-nation South Asia tour, Mrs Clinton kicked off her three-day sojourn by visiting an orphanage and a school for underprivileged children in the Capital besides getting a first-hand account of issues confronting women in this country.

This was in line with her primary concerns, championing as she has been the cause of women and children and helping them assume their rightful place in society.

Accompanied by her daughter Chelsea, Mrs Clinton warmly cuddled infants at an orphanage run by the Missionaries of Charity. She was escorted by Minister-in-waiting Margaret Alva, US Ambassador Frank Wisner and US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel.

"I'm touched by the sight of these innocents," she said while moving from cradle to cradle during her 20-minute stay in the nursery. Later, Mrs Clinton and Chelsea joined the nuns and inmates in singing a hymn in the courtyard outside the nursery. She then went around the packed children's home and shook hands with the kids attired in their colourful best.

Thereafter, the First Lady was ushered into the chapel by the Sisters for a private prayer session.

Mrs Clinton also met some American couples who have adopted children from the orphanage. She donated beds, heaters and blankets to the centre, saying "it is important to realise that with a lot of love and good organisation and planning, one can take care of orphaned children".

The Missionaries of Charity were also promised a house in Washington to run an adoption centre there.

At a luncheon meeting with some eminent women at Roosevelt House, the residence of the US Ambassador, in the afternoon, the First Lady focussed on social issues concerning women, children and families.

Among those present to hear her views were Mrs Shobhana Bharatiya, film-maker Mira Nair, dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai and Mrs Maya Ray, wife of Indian Ambassador to the US S. S. Ray. She was also acquainted with the issues concerning women in India.

Later in the afternoon, Mrs Clinton went around a school for underprivileged, Prayas Foundation for Integrated Learning. A cultural function was put up by the school, creating an authentic village atmosphere.

Addressing the gathering, she said what has to be kept uppermost in mind is that children are an important resource to the society as a whole. "I love India and will go back with fond memories," Mrs Clinton said amidst applause.

In her speech, she also touched upon the significance being attached to her visit as it was expected to further help develop Indo-US relations.



Mrs Hillary Clinton with inmates of Mother Teresa's orphanage in New Delhi on Tuesday morning. Her daughter Chelsea, is on extreme right. — PTI photo

The Hindustan Times March 29, 1995

Hillary's plea for women's empowerment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

THE FIRST LADY OF the US, Hillary Clinton, was at her scintillating best at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation this morning. She spoke from her heart and sought to bring women to the centre-stage of the development debate. Delhi's glitterati turned up in full force to listen to her.

Mrs Clinton also had an hour-long meeting with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. She then joined him at lunch and continued the discussion. The conversation covered a large number of issues concerning social development. They dwelt on the status of women in the two countries, and spoke of the ways and means of empowering them. Mrs Clinton stressed the need to expand women's access to education, health care and other development sectors.

What would have been a memorable morning at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation was marred by ugly scenes as people fought to get admission into Jawahar Bhavan. The Foundation and the American Embassy had invited far more people than could be seated in the auditorium. People were asked to be in their seats by 10.40 a.m., but by 10.30 a.m. the hall was full.

The outer gates of Jawahar Bhavan were locked, and ministers, MPs and representatives of various embassies were turned away. Angry Welfare Minister Sitaram Kesari was walking away from the auditorium in a huff, protesting loudly, when one of the security guards recognised him and allowed him in. Fifty others, including diplomats, plunged in after him. Renuka Chowdhry, MP, was engaged in a verbal duel, and was seen being jostled. The Minister for Women,

Mrs Basavarajeshwari, was also being pummelled and denied entry, till a woman activist rescued her and pointed out that she was a minister.

There was also pandemonium inside Jawahar Bhavan. While many could not gain admission into the auditorium, others who did get in could not get a seat. Mr Chidambaram could be seen pacing up and down. Many people had to squat in the first-floor verandah of Jawahar Bhavan, and hear Mrs Clinton on a closed-circuit monitor.

But there was pin-drop silence when Mrs Sonia Gandhi stood up to welcome Mrs Clinton. The First Lady spoke about the fast-changing world and the challenges that still remain – of deep poverty and putting people first during the current period of economic and political transition. The vast majority of people, she pointed out, were not prepared with the skills needed in the new

global economy.

"And if consumerism is the primary message being transmitted, the explosion in material expectations will put additional demands on institutions, ranging from the family to the government, that are unlikely to be met quickly or fully."

Though women form 50 per cent of the population, in country after country they have been denied access to education, health services, jobs and political and civil rights. Pleading their case, Mrs Clinton pointed out that "where women prosper, countries prosper".

Extolling the many virtues of women's education, and pleading for better health-care facilities for women, Mrs Clinton announced that India would be the first country to benefit from the \$ 100 million USAID Girls' and Women's Education Initiative announced in Copenhagen. An

initial grant to expand girls' education would be provided to NGOs, both American and Indian.

While supporting economic reforms, the First Lady said that they are rarely sufficient to achieve sustainable development. In the US too, she said, there was a debate on the role of government in supplying social services because of the recognition that not all people are equipped to share the rewards of the newly emerging economy.

Mrs Clinton spelt out the five key commitments needed to achieve the goal of social development for women. She asked business leaders to be socially responsible, as depleting natural or human resources could destroy markets and undermine people's confidence in them. Along with government and business, NGOs – with their tenacity and deep sense of commitment – must play a central role in the development process.

Indian Express
March 30, 1995

Girl's poem moves Hillary

Making a point in silence, eloquently

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

TOO many women
in too many countries
speak the same language
of silence.
My grandmother was always silent-
always aggrieved-
only her husband had the cosmic right
(or so it was said)
to speak and be heard.

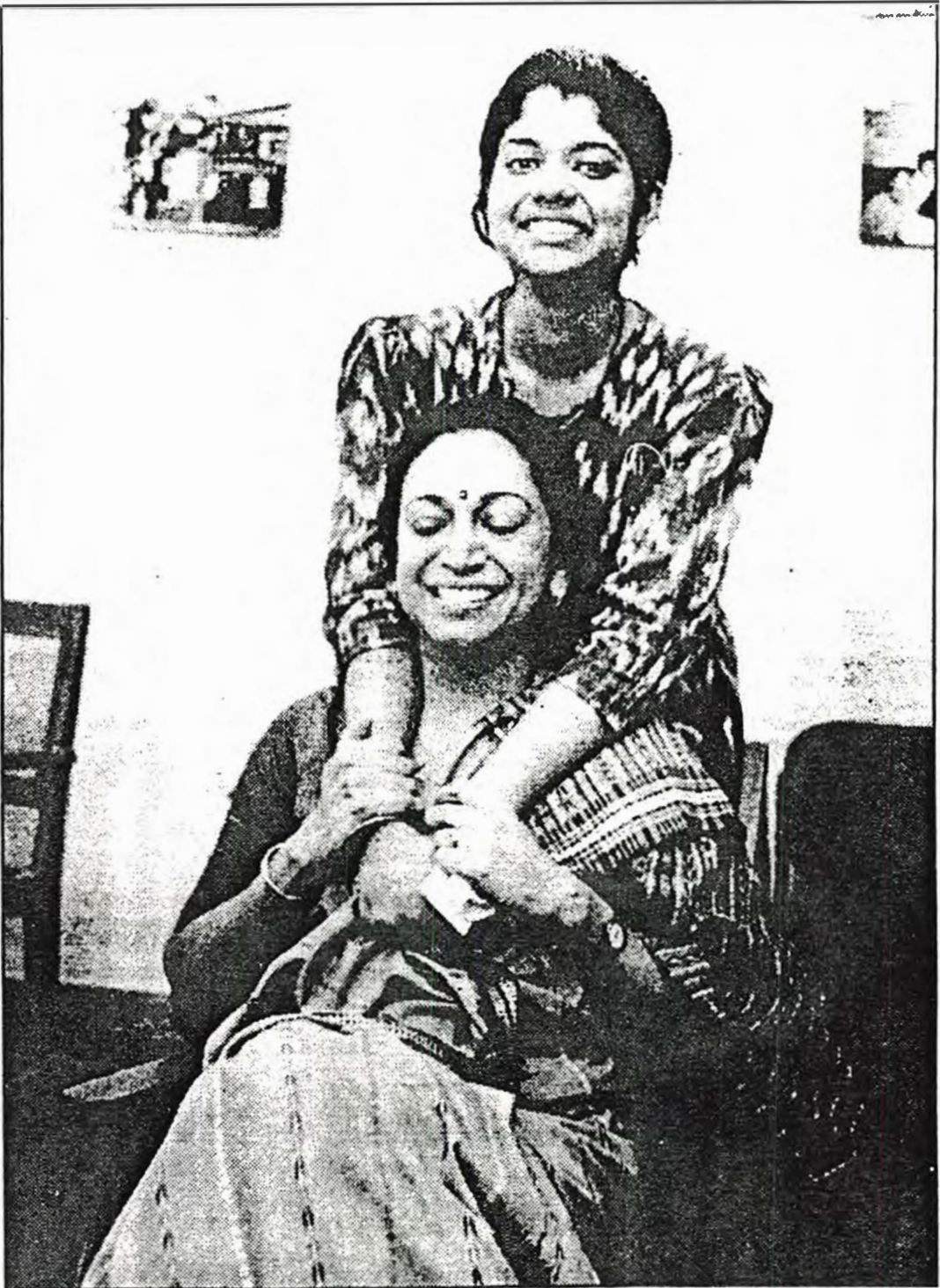
These thoughts led a Delhi college girl to pen them in the form of a poem, very aptly named *Silence*. So moved was US First Lady Hillary Clinton that she chose to recite it at a meeting organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation here on Wednesday.

The poem, penned by 21-year-old Anasuya Sengupta, a first year student pursuing a degree in Economics at Lady Shri Ram College, is not about things as great or mundane—it encapsulates, in very simple but haunting effective words, the plight of the Indian woman.

Anasuya was part of the select audience which had gathered at Jawahar Bhavan to listen to Ms Clinton. She could not believe her ears when the US First Lady started reciting her poem. "I had a feeling that she would use excerpts from my poem in her speech, but I never thought she would read out the entire poem," she gushed.

The words that swayed Ms Clinton were not a result of any painstaking effort by the young poetess. These were the spontaneous outpouring of a woman disturbed by the poor status of women in society. "We had decided to invite Ms Clinton to our college during her visit to the country. But the plan fell through and our principal, Ms Meenakshi Gopinath, hit upon the idea of presenting her a memento instead," Anasuya said, adding, "I was requested to write a poem for the US First Lady as a souvenir."

Anasuya is the daughter of an IAS officer. Anasuya has had an affinity with words since her childhood. "My works have been published in quite a few magazines, especially periodicals catering to children," she mentioned. Her talent in penning off her thoughts came to the fore at the annual poetry competition organised by the cul-



A beaming Anasuya Sengupta with Dr Meenakshi Gopinath, the principal of Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi. Express photo by Sanjay K Sharma

tural division of the British Council. She was the youngest contributor for two consecutive years—1993 and 1994.

The young poetess attributes her way with words to her parents. "My mother is a noted writer, playwright and educationist.

In fact, she is one of the few people in India who have written plays in English," she claimed, adding that her father, even though a bureaucrat, was a director of plays.

"I would attribute her versatility to her genetics, circumsta-

nces and the college atmosphere," remarked a proud Dr Meenakshi Gopinath, principal of Lady Shri Ram College, about her student. Her words were not wide off the mark. Anasuya was adjudged the best all-round student of the college for the year 1994-95.

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Indian Express March 30, 1995

Hillary learns how Nepali mothers deliver babies

KATHMANDU, Apr 1: US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton brought her diplomatic push for better treatment for women on Friday to the mountain kingdom of Nepal, one of the world's poorest and most male centred countries, reports Reuter.

At an airport welcoming ceremony in the shadow of the Himalayas, she was greeted by Queen Aishwarya and her daughter Shruti.

She then plunged into an agenda that included a visit to a health clinic, a luncheon with leading women and an audience with King Birendra.

The wife of US President Bill Clinton, on a 12-day goodwill visit to South Asia with daughter Chelsea, also planned some recreation in Nepal - a private weekend safari at royal Chitwan national park, 110 km (66 miles) south of Kathmandu.

She said the purpose of her two-day visit to Nepal was "not only to experience the natural beauty of this majestic country, but also to gain a deeper understanding of its people and its culture".

Of the 10 highest mountains in the world, nine including the 8,848 metre (29,028 ft) Mount Everest, are entirely or partly within Nepal's borders. It is one of the world's 10 poorest countries.

"Because the status of women and children around the world is of special concern to me, I hope to learn more about the experience of those groups in Nepal and to exchange ideas with women leaders here", Clinton said in a statement.

Nepal, with a population of 20

million is one of only three countries in the world where women have a shorter life expectancy than men.

Their literacy rate is less than 20 percent, compared to about 55 percent for men, and in rural areas they work longer hours than men.

In a remote Himalayan nation where 10 out of every 100 babies die in infancy, Hillary Rodham Clinton visited a clinic Friday where women can get a life-saving little red box to help protect mothers and children.

The "safe home delivery kit" - little larger than a pack of cigarettes - contains a sheet of plastic, a piece of string, a razor blade and soap for use by Nepali women who traditionally give birth at home.

"Something like this, as we know around the world, can make enormous difference if it is available," the first lady said.

Mrs. Clinton, whose 12-day tour of South Asia is centred on the needs of women and children, listened attentively as health experts at the Kalimati Clinic described the sorry conditions under which Nepali mothers often deliver babies.

"All the deliveries are done in unclean situations, and when we say unclean situations, it is really dirty," said Rukmini Charran Shrestha, managing director of Maternal and Child Health Product.

The women-owned company was set up to assemble and distribute the delivery kits, which were developed with support from the Nepali government, aid from the United States and help from private relief groups.

The Independent
April 2, 1995

Grameen Bank offers lessons we can learn, says Hillary

WASHINGTON, Apr 1: First Lady Hillary Clinton's upcoming visit to five South Asian countries is for the purpose of "learning as much as she possibly can about the kinds of issues she has always cared about, human issues," says USIS.

In an interview this week on CNN's "Late Edition", Mrs. Clinton said, "I want to see some of the programmes that they are doing there trying to help children and women and very poor people pull themselves up, take opportunity by giving it to them through credit and other approaches, and see what I can learn." She said she is particularly interested in the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh which extends credit primarily to women, and these women then are able to take better care of themselves by establishing small businesses.

Following are excerpts of an unofficial transcript of Mrs. Clinton's interview:

CNN: A year ago you were on the Hill championing the cause of health care reform here in the United States. Now you're five days away from leaving on this major trip to Asia, to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. What is the first lady up to?

Mrs. Clinton: Well, I think it's all pretty much the same kinds of issues that I've always cared about now for more than 25 years, and that I guess you could describe are the human issues. I mean, what do we do to make sure that

children have healthy futures and they get the education they need? And that certainly is what I tried to do promoting health care, because I was particularly concerned about children. And what I'm hoping is that not only here at home but abroad that all of us will recognise that as we move into this global economy, we have to

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be very conscious and aware of what we are doing or not doing on behalf of our children and other vulnerable people.

CNN: Why Asia?

Mrs. Clinton: Well, the State Department and the administration are very hopeful that our relations with South Asia, the five countries that I'm going to be visiting, will continue to be strengthened. This is an important

part of the world strategically. There's a lot at stake for the entire world. There are a lot of American interests at stake. We've had a number of successful trips there already by Secretary Brown and Secretary O'Leary promoting business. And I think that the president feels that this is a part of the world that needs our attention, and I was delighted to be asked to go to talk about some of these human issues.

CNN: Now, you have said on many occasions, and you repeated it recently in Copenhagen and New York, in one way or another, that women in many societies around the world have been marginalised.

...So what exactly are you hoping to accomplish? Are you going to go over there and rattle their cages, if you will, to say, you know, "Change the way your societies work?"

Mrs. Clinton: No.

CNN: What are you trying to do?

Mrs. Clinton: No, not at all. I'm going to learn as much as I possibly can about what is being done there, what they are doing to help themselves. There are some wonderful programs in all five of these countries that are aimed at giving women the education they need, the skills that they require to take care of themselves and their families. I'm particularly interested in the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh which extends credit primarily to

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Grameen Bank offers

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women, and these women then are able to take better care of themselves by establishing small business. In fact, you know, we, when my husband was governor of Arkansas, followed the example of the Grameen Bank and set up such a fund in Arkansas dealing with poor people in our state.

So I think there are lessons we can learn. I'm not about to go and try to tell anybody what to do. I think that is not my role. I think it's presumptuous even if someone were to suggest it. I do believe that as the world becomes more competitive, we also become more connected. And we need to be respectful of each other. We need to learn from each other's cultures. And I think that will help us be sure that we have a global community.

CNN: You have pointed out specifically that women bear the brunt of poverty and illiteracy around the world.

...Talk a little bit about that and what is being done: or what you would like to do to change that?

Mrs. Clinton: Well, you know, that's true in our country as well, that the poorest of the people in our country are single women with their children. And that is a pattern that unfortunately holds throughout the world. Now, luckily our people are nowhere near as impoverished as the billion people who live at a totally absolute poverty level, less than a dollar a day of income around the world. And there are very many people who are now convinced that if we help by investing in women, for women to take some responsibility and have some power over their own futures, that is not only good for the men; it helps their children, it helps

their husbands, it helps the larger society.

So I'm particularly interested in speaking with women and learning from women in these five countries about what they are doing, because I think there are direct links. And we saw that when we were in Denmark as to how, yes, the more developed countries need to be aware of what is happening, but we also need to understand that a lot of these countries, and particularly the women in these countries, are doing some rather remarkable things for themselves.

CNN: More ahead on the first lady's family and her faith. Hillary Rodham Clinton is our guest during this special Late Edition, which will continue after this.

Mrs. Clinton: (From videotape) I think that prayer and faith are the province of the family. And I believe that what we ought to be trying to figure out how to do is to get prayer back in the family.

CNN: Mrs. Clinton, we've talked a lot about family here and the big issue of family. But there's your family, too. And I think a lot of people are very interested in how the president of the United States and the first lady, with a teenage daughter, make the family work with all the pressures of the time, of the office, and the responsibilities of the ceremonial.

Mrs. Clinton: Well, we work very hard at it, and it is something that both my husband and I take extremely seriously and always have. I mean, we make time for our family. We try, as hard as it is, to have at least one meal together, usually dinner. Sometimes that doesn't work out, but we try very hard to make it happen. We spend time playing games to-

gether, listening to each other.

CNN: After all is said and done, so much has been written about you. What do you think - and you are such a lightning rod, have been. What does the public still not understand about Hillary Clinton, do you think?

Mrs. Clinton: Well, I don't know what the answer to that is. I think probably, though, people keep trying to assign a label or a stereotype to me to sort of fill in the blanks, and I think that does a disservice to many women who, like me, have worked both in the home and outside the home, have been active in their communities, have our own opinions and feelings about matters, are trying to do the best we can. So I think oftentimes what comes across is just, you know, one element of my life. And it would be like taking a snapshot of many women at a certain point in that woman's day and say, 'Aha, she's a mom' because you see her with her children, or, 'Aha, she's a career woman' because you see her at work. I mean, I think we -

CNN: Men don't have that problem, do they?

Mrs. Clinton: Not as much.

CNN: Even if they try to struggle in the same way and connect the same many dots on the page.

Mrs. Clinton: You know, I remember years ago reading in some advice column that, you know, women who worked in office should never have pictures of their families in their office because that might lead people to think they weren't serious about work. But men should always have pictures of their families because that would make everybody think they were well-rounded. I mean, that's absurd. I mean, men and women together are struggling to define their roles as husbands and wives, as mothers and fathers, as workers, as citizens. We ought to be helping each other. We ought not to be stereotyping one another. And we certainly ought not to be saying to women, 'One choice is the right choice, and if you choose this, you're okay. But if you choose something else, you're not.' That is not fair, and it does a great disservice to the richness of women's lives today.

The Independent

Apr. 2, 1995

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Israelis pound

Here and There Why Grameen Bank fascinated Clintons

When President Bill Clinton was Governor of Arkansas, he met Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen (rural) Bank, a revolutionary Bangladeshi organisation that extends credit primarily to women who wish to establish small business.

Yunus' scheme was so simple and compelling that Clinton decided that the Grameen system would benefit businesses in southern Arkansas, which had been hard hit by declining jobs in agriculture and industry.

And earlier this month in Copenhagen at the UN World Summit on Social Development, Hillary Rodham Clinton reported that the Grameen Bank "has not only improved the immediate circumstances of thousands of families, it has also fostered a greater sense of purpose and community among the people. The bank believes that if you give people access to credit and ask them to take responsibility, in return they will achieve greater economic and social independence." Mrs. Clinton said.

Muhammad Yunus believes that "credit is a human right and the poor are your best credit risk." The non-profit Grameen Bank provides small loans to the poorest women in rural areas in Bangladesh. The bank also lends to farmers and fishermen.

Grameen's first loan was made in December 1976 for approximately 250 US dollar to assist 15 people. There were no written contracts.

Now, 19 years later, Grameen Bank operates in more than half the villages of Bangladesh, serving 2 million borrowers with more than 1,000 branches. The average loan is 100 dollars, a considerable sum in Bangladesh. The payback rate is 98 per cent.

As a result of the Yunus-Clinton meeting, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation asked the Shorebank Corporation of Chicago to help create a new bank holding company in Arkansas modelled on the Grameen system. Shorebank had been the sponsor of the first US Grameen community development programme which was designed to help

residents in Chicago's minority neighborhoods.

The Arkansas programme, which is known as the good faith fund, now supports new and existing local business in small towns in southern Arkansas. In addition, Grameen-based projects and hundreds of other micro enterprise businesses are bettering American communities in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

According to Julia Vindasius, executive director of Arkansas's good faith fund, the US version of Grameen Bank finances primarily local retail and service-oriented businesses: truckers, beauticians, auto repair, furniture upholstery and building enterprises, small grocery stores, lawn care businesses and photographers.

Women who obtain loans can work in the home as seamstresses, crafters, caterers, laundresses, music teachers and child care givers.

The US-based Grameen projects are also tackling the technological challenges of the 20th century by sponsoring computer-oriented enterprises and providing training in technology and management. "Business training has probably been one of the key innovation (of) American programmes," Vindasius says. But despite difference of approach, Grameen programmes around the world all share the

peer-group borrowing principle. If any member of a group defaults, no member can ever again borrow from the bank. By getting borrowers to monitor each other, Grameen has consistently been able to recover about 98 per cent of its loans.

On March 24, Hillary Rodham Clinton began the most extensive good will trip to South Asia by a US first lady in nearly two decades. Her two-week journey will focus on humanitarian issues in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

In each country, Mrs. Clinton will meet with women representatives of government and non-government organisations (NGOs), religious institutions, education, business and the arts.

-USIS feature



These rural women striving to change their lot through Grameen Bank loan.

It is a rare honour for us that Hillary Clinton begins a three-day visit of Bangladesh today. Unofficial though, it is a great occasion for Bangladesh. Since our Liberation in 1971, we had one other such visit of as much importance, that of US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on October 30, 1974. After Kissinger, during the subsequent 22 years, we had much lesser mortals such as Vernon Walter and Jean Kirkpatrick, two US Permanent Representatives to the UN gracing us with their visits in early 1980's. John C. Whitehead, Deputy Permanent Under-Secretary of the US State Department was second highest ranking official after Kissinger to visit Bangladesh in mid 80's. Robert Flatten — Bangladesh Desk Officer in the US State Department came calling during the later years of Lt. Gen. Hussain Muhammad Ershad and was received in state by our fallen President. All Americans — any American for that matter — were important to him. Their visits gave him respectability and photo opportunities. Then the latest visitor in the series from the USA before Hillary Clinton was Robin Raphael, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Bureau in the State Department last year. Raphael is well known as FOB, that is friend of Bill (Bill, of course, means Bill Clinton).

Wife of former American vice president Dan Quayle had visited us in the middle of 1991, after the disastrous cyclone of April that year.

Besides these visits of the officials we had some Senators and Congressmen also visiting Bangladesh since our liberation, most prominent of them being Senator Edward Kennedy and Congressman Stephen Solarz. Senator Kennedy came to visit us soon after our liberation with his nephew Joseph P. Kennedy, the latter now a prominent Congressman in his own right and in the great family tradition. Congressman Solarz was the last legislator to visit us and that was in the late 80's.

Stephen Solarz had played an important role in our fight to get back our democracy from Ershad and the coterie of his generals, the bureaucrats and the politicians, most of them rejected by the people. Solarz visited Bangladesh, and met our leaders including the present Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the leader of the biggest opposition party, Awami League. He had also held a press conference in Washington D.C. on 14 April 1988, an open hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Sub Committee on Asia and the Pacific of which he was the Chairman. The hearing was on democracy, human rights and how to make election in Bangladesh credible.

Senator Edward Kennedy comes from the most distinguished and well known political family of the USA. His visit in

In the Footsteps of the Kennedys

Hillary Clinton carries the idealism and concern displayed by John and Edward a decade apart, writes Mohiuddin Ahmed

1971 to the refugee camps set up along the borders in India to accommodate millions of our people driven out by Pakistani military rulers still brings back to our memory sufferings of our people of those days of blood and fire. I have still got in my collection some of those news clippings and photographs showing Senator Kennedy visiting the relief camps in heavy downpour and ankle-deep mud. Senator Kennedy could not bear the sights of dying and dead children in those make-shift camps. One photograph showing him turning away his face.

Senator Kennedy's open condemnation of Pakistan military regime during the visit of the refugee camps for the blood bath in Bangladesh forcing ultimately 10 millions of our people to flee away from their homes and safety cost him the visa that was given to visit Pakistan after India. After the withdrawal of the visa by the Pakistani military junta Senator Kennedy could not come to Bangladesh to see how 75 million people were living in terror.

President Nixon and Henry Kissinger did not support us in our War of Liberation 24 years ago. And Henry Kissinger was not all love for Bangladesh during his visit in 1974 either. But we had the support of people like Senator Kennedy, Senator George McGovern, Senator William Saxton and Senator Eugene McCarthy and many other leaders in politics and churches, education and human rights campaign. We sincerely remember the contribution, support and prayers of all those Americans across the USA. Their prayers had sustained us in our war of survival.

We were sustained in our indomitable spirit by people like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. The Declaration of American Independence was a source of great inspiration to us, as to any other people in any other part of the world. Pursuit of happiness and living in and with dignity and in freedom were our aims also as it was in the American War of Independence.

We also had our own George Washington who inspired and led us to our freedom. But whereas the American George Washington is given place of honour everywhere in the USA, our George Washington — Ban-

gabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman — is not even uttered or mentioned in our state controlled radio and television, or for that matter, in anything official!

The people of Bangladesh are poor. And that attracts many people to this country. But what is not understood in many countries is that we have a tradition for about 180 years of electing our representatives. In many affluent countries of the world, people have not seen a ballot paper or a polling booth, much less an election. We are so much more advanced in this respect!

Ambitious and adventurous generals like those in Latin America and Africa have bedeviled our democracy and freedom several times during the past 20 years and some of the colonels and majors killed our Father of the Nation, his wife, his three sons, (one was only 10 years) and the two daughters-in-law (one was pregnant), among others. These killers have not been tried in any court. Rather, they have been glorified with diplomatic assignments in our embassies abroad.

Bill Clinton was inspired by a handshake with President John Kennedy in the White House lawn when Clinton was a school lad of only 17 years. I have seen the clip of that famous television 'find several times since Clinton had announced his candidacy for the office of the President in 1991. John Kennedy had inspired many millions all over the world. As a young man of 19, I too, had tremendous admiration for this American President. His handsome look, his beautiful wife and the two children looking like butterflies seem to me to be an ideal family.

The youthful look of President Clinton, the elegance of Hillary and the charms of their daughter Chelsea resemble the Kennedy family. Vice President Al Gore, his wife Tipper and their children are assets to Clinton presidency. The sporty and dainty of the two women, Hillary and Tipper, immediately following the nomination of their husbands on the stage of Madison Square Garden where the Democratic Party had held its convention in the summer of '92 is one of my memorable experiences of New York City.

Hillary Clinton is a distinguished guest from the USA. She has been

involved in the programmes for the poor and needy people. It is that concern that brings her to Bangladesh. The couple's commitment to the affirmative action programmes like that of the Kennedys endear them to us. We welcome her in our midst with all our warmth and sincerity. We know she is not visiting us holding any official position, but she is our most welcome guest nonetheless.

Addressing the veterans of the Second World War last summer in the beach of France, President Clinton had said the immortal words, 'You are the forces of freedom. When you were young, you have saved the world, the world is enjoying 50 years of freedom because of your heroism. We are the children of your sacrifice.'

Then his speech in Port-au-Prince, just two days ago last Friday, on the occasion of transfer of command from American forces to the UN forces reiterating his commitment to Democracy and human rights are of as much inspiration to us as to those in Haiti and all over the world.

We fought in 1971 in our War of Liberation so that we could live in peace, happiness and dignity. But we continue to remain poor and with hardly any progress economic or otherwise. We should not remain this poor and illiterate if our resources and foreign aid were not misallocated and mismanaged. We had overthrown a dictator in a people's upsurge in the December of 1990 and then got an elected government which, we thought, would be accountable and transparent. But the accountability of our government is more a misnomer than a practice of democracy. We do not have a functioning and effective Parliament which is now nearly dead following the resignation of all the members of our opposition parties. The resigning members, 147 in number, are about half of the Parliament.

Our state controlled television and radio are the best examples of an unresponsive government. Our TV does not tell anything about the continuing fertiliser crisis, soaring foodgrain prices and police killing of 7 (seven) poor farmers two weeks ago in several places of Bangladesh — their unforgivable crime having been their demand for fertiliser at the government fixed price!

Our longest days is not yet over either. Our battle for freedom continues — freedom from hunger, illiteracy and diseases. Our fight for dignity for the farmers, workers and everybody goes on.

And we know we shall overcome someday. And we know we have the support of Hillary Clinton in our struggle. She demonstrates this with her visit to Bangladesh today.

The writer is former Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, former Deputy Permanent Representative, the Bangladesh Mission to the UN, New York

'Human issues' focus of Hillary's trip

WASHINGTON, Apr. 1: US First Lady Hillary Clinton's current visit to five South Asian countries including Bangladesh is for the purpose of "learning as much as she possibly can about the kinds of issues she has always cared about, human issues," says a USIS press release.

In an interview March 19 on CNN's "Late Edition," before setting out on this trip which has already taken her to India, Pakistan and Nepal, Mrs Clinton said, "I want to see some of the programmes that they are doing there trying to help children and women and very poor people pull themselves up, take opportunity by giving it to them through credit and other approaches, and see what I can learn." She said she is particularly interested in the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh which extends credit primarily to women, and these women then are able to take better care of themselves by establishing small businesses.

Following are excerpts of an unofficial transcript of Mrs Clinton's interview:

CNN: A year ago you were on the Hill championing the cause of health care reform here in the United States. Now you're five days away from leaving on this major trip to Asia, to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka. What is the first lady up to?

MRS CLINTON: Well, I think it's all pretty much the same kinds of issues that I've always cared about now for more than 25 years, and that I guess you could describe are the human issues. I mean, what do we do to make sure that children have healthy futures and they get the education they need? And that certainly is what I tried to do promoting health care, because I was particularly concerned about children. And what I'm hoping is that not only here at home but abroad that all of us will recognize that as we move into this global economy, we have to be very conscious and aware of what we are doing or not doing

on behalf of our children and other vulnerable people.

CNN: Why Asia?

MRS CLINTON: Well, the State Department and the administration are very hopeful that our relations with South Asia, the five countries that I'm going to be visiting, will continue to be strengthened. This is an important part of the world strategically. There's a lot at stake for the entire world. There are a lot of American interests at stake. We've had a number of successful trips there already by Secretary Brown and Secretary O'Leary promoting business. And I think that the president feels that this is a part of the world that needs our attention, and I was delighted to be asked to go to talk about some of these human issues.

CNN: Now, you have said on many occasions, and you repeated it recently in Copenhagen and New York, in one way or another, that women in many societies around the world have been marginalized.

... So what exactly are you hoping to accomplish? Are you going to go over there and rattle their cages, if you will, to say, you know, "Change the way your societies work?"

MRS CLINTON: No.

CNN: What are you trying to do?

MRS CLINTON: No, not at all. I'm going to learn as much as I possibly can about what is being done there, what they are doing to help themselves. There are some wonderful programmes in all five of these countries that are aimed at giving women the education they need, the skills that they require to take care of themselves and their families. I'm particularly interested in the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh which extends credit primarily to women, and these women then are able to take better care of themselves by establishing small businesses. In fact, you know, we, when my husband was governor of Arkansas, followed the example of the Grameen Bank and

set up such a fund in Arkansas dealing with poor people in our state.

So I think there are lessons we can learn. I'm not about to go and try to tell anybody what to do. I think that is not my role. I think it's presumptuous even if someone were to suggest it. I do believe that as the world becomes more competitive, we also become more connected. And we need to be respectful of each other. We need to learn from each other's cultures. And I think that will help us be sure that we have a global community.

CNN: You have pointed out specifically that women bear the brunt of poverty and illiteracy around the world.

... Talk a little bit about that and what is being done or what you would like to do to change that?

MRS CLINTON: Well, you know, that's true in our country as well, that the poorest of the people in our country are single women with their children. And that is a pattern that unfortunately holds throughout the world. Now, luckily our people are nowhere near as impoverished as the billion people who live at a totally absolute poverty level, less than a dollar a day of income around the world. And there are very many people who are now convinced that if we help by investing in women, for women to take some responsibility and have some power over their own futures, that is not only good for the women; it helps their children, it helps their husbands, it helps the larger society.

So I'm particularly interested in speaking with women and learning from women in these five countries about what they are doing, because I think there are direct links. And we saw that when we were in Denmark as to how, yes, the more developed countries need to be aware of what is happening, but we also need to understand that a lot of these countries, and particularly the women in these countries, are doing some rather remarkable things for themselves.

Mrs Clinton's trip

Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit to Bangladesh comes at a time when the country's women are engaged in an uphill battle against the forces of obscurantism. A group of elements has just called for a ban on the activities of NGOs, and that is a sure sign that there are people in this society who obviously feel threatened at the erosion of their authority. Many of the NGOs have over the years done a remarkable job in transforming the lives of Bangladesh's women. That basically has been an injection of the spirit of independence and confidence in women who, in an earlier time, were condemned to life without things lively.

Mrs Clinton's particular experience will be coming to a country whose politics is dominated by women. The hereditary bit apart, a good measure of credit must go to the nation's prime minister and the leader of the opposition for the courage with which they have restored the base for democracy. That is the positive aspect of societal life Hillary Clinton will observe. And yet she must remember that not long ago, a feminist writer was forced into exile by elements not taking kindly to her expression of opinion. In this country, women have been stoned in medieval fashion. Mrs Clinton will be told the story of Noor Jahan. If her attention holds, one could tell her the tragic tales arising out of the ~~dr~~ made by men tempted by the wealth of their in-laws.

The wife of Bill Clinton goes beyond the mere calling of the politically ceremonial. She has appreciated the value of the individualistic. Which is why her visit comes wrapped in substance. We welcome the US first lady. More importantly, we cheer the arrival of a person who knows where she stands on the issues.

The Morning Sun
April 3, 1995



Hillary Clinton talking with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia before the dinner hosted by the Prime Minister at her Hare Road office in honour of the US First Lady on Monday.

Hillary visits NGO projects in Jessore US to give aid for spread of female education

PANCHBARIA (Jessore), Apr 3 : The visiting US First lady Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton disclosed here today that the United States had a plan to extend Assistance to Bangladesh to spread female education.

Talking to BSS Ms Clinton expressed her satisfaction over the level of awareness of women in Bangladesh.

Earlier, Ms Clinton was greeted by thousands of people of the adjoining villages as she entered the premise of Panchbaria-Baidanga Government Primary School.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Ms Sarwar Rahman and Secretary Primary and Mass Education Division Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed received the US First Lady at the school gate. As Ms Clinton entered the school where Food-for-Education Programme had been introduced last year, students welcomed her with physical training display and songs.

Ms Sarwar Rahman and Kazi Rakibuddin briefed Ms Clinton about the favourable impact of the food-for-education programme to reduce dropouts and increase enrolment in primary schools. She was told that a family having two school-going children and belonging to underprivileged sections of society are given 20 kg wheat a month while a family with one school-going child is given 15 kg wheat a month out of a total of 387 students of

it.

She moved from one class of the school to another and talked freely with the students.

Later, Ms Clinton together with her daughter Chelsea went to the adjoining Panchbaria Secondary Girls High School and spent sometime with the students of Class VII. She also introduced her daughter, a tenth grader, to the students of the class.

In her introductory remarks she said, showing the world map, "I have come all the way from our country to acquaint myself better with your condition and enhance my experiences about your country. She wanted to know from the students the subjects taught in their classes. Some of the students promptly replied to the queries of the US First Lady.

She frankly narrated her experiences how their family

moved from Arkansas state to the White House when Mr Bill Clinton became President of the United States. She also shared her experiences of the visits to other South Asian countries like India, Pakistan and Nepal with the students of the school.

Then Ms Clinton on her way to Dhaka drove in a motorcade to the airport where she posed for group photographs with Bangladeshi and US Airforce Crew.

Ms. Clinton and their daughter Chelsea were seen off at the Jessore airport by Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hussain Chowdhury, senior civil and military officials.

MASHIRATI VILLAGE

According to another reports : It was indeed a memo-

Could not be printed

Bangladesh Times

April 3, 1995

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US to give aid for spread

Contd. from page 1

able experience for the people of this remote village, 20 miles from Jessore, as the US First Lady Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton visited them Mashkhali, Jhenidah today.

Ms Clinton together with her daughter Chelsea spent more than an hour in the sultry Chaitra with the otherwise neglected people of this quiet village to better acquaint herself with the grassroot operations of the country's Grameen Bank.

Prof M Yunus who is the founder of the widely acclaimed NGO, received Ms. Clinton and introduced her to the members of the bank.

Earlier, minor children belonging to the village greeted Ms. Clinton heartily with songs and physical training (PT) display. She was visibly impressed with the performance of the tiny tots and exchanged greetings with them. She was thankful to the villagers for their long wait for her. Minister in waiting Ms. Surwar Rahman, who is State Minister in charge of Women and Children Affairs, was present. As her motorcade drove from airport to the village hundreds of people greeted her waving hands from both sides of the road.

Deputy Head of Mission of US Embassy James Nash and a White House press team were among others who accompanied the US First Lady.

Talking freely with some of the members of Grameen Bank Ms. Clinton said, "I have heard about the bank 10 years before. Now I have come to learn from you how the bank has benefited you to become self-reliant in society."

Ms. Shefall, S Ambia and Ms. Rina narrated their stories to the visiting US First Lady how they have been benefitted becoming associated with the Grameen Bank. Rina who is chairman of a group said with confidence, "before becoming Grameen Bank member I was a pauper. Today I have a house, a few head of cattle and poultry birds. I also send my children to school and follow the discipline of the bank."

Shedwelt at length the long story of the gradual enhancement of the ceiling of Grameen Loan with the improvement of her financial condition.

Ms Clinton also replied to some of the queries of the Grameen Bank members.

In reply to one of the questions she said, "I have started earning since I was 13. Sometimes my income exceeded the income of my husband. I have stopped earning since moving to the White House when my husband became the President."

Responding to another question she said, "I wish I could have one or two more children. But we are so happy with our daughter that we thought of taking no more child

we are proud of Chelsea."

Referring to observations of one of the members Ms Clinton said she would convey her invitation to President Bill Clinton to visit Bangladesh at his convenient time.

Ms. Clinton showed interest in some of the products displayed in stalls under a beautiful thatched roof. All the products put on display in 18 stalls were manufactured by members of the Bank. The products included jamdani saree, bamboo and cane furniture, brass wares, etc. One of the Grameen members showed her the technique to wear a saree. She was given some local products as gifts.

Narrating experiences to become a Grameen Bank member Ms Najma said, "Some well-to-do members of society discouraged me to become a member. They wanted us to be permanently dependent living on their left-overs." She said, "Association with the Bank has given me a new identity and made me self-reliant in society." She boastfully recalled her experiences when members of such families were seeking their cooperation. Ms. Najma has another identity as a member of the Union Parishad. She was informed that dowry practice and divorce rate had gone down in the area.

During the course of free and frank exchange of views with the members of Grameen Bank Ms Clinton said, "Today you have learnt how to take collective decision. It will take you a long way," she observed.

As Ms Clinton entered the venue of the stalls tiny tots received her singing gambhira, jari and other folk songs reflecting the cultural heritage of rural Bangladesh.

BRAC SCHOOL

According to another report from Churamankathi, Jessore, it was a pleasant surprise for the children of BRAC school when the US First Lady Ms Hillary Clinton with her daughter Chelsea visited them here today.

The children and local people greeted them heartily by clappings and singing.

As she entered the school premises BRAC Executive Director Fazle Hasan Abed received her.

He briefed her how the programme of Non-Formal Primary Education (NFE) introduced by BRAC had been started with 22 schools in 1985. The number of such schools today is 29 thousand covering 55 out of 64 administrative districts of the country.

Mamata Rani Biswas, a teacher of the school narrated to the US First Lady the functioning of the school. Replying to Ms Clinton's query Mamata said the school timing was flexible suiting the needs of the children in their families. She was further informed that

students had their lessons simultaneously with time for fun, singing, dancing, acting and games.

Ms. Clinton had words of praise for the performance of the programme of BRAC. Mr Abed presented Ms. Clinton with a video cassette on the school programme.

CWFP CLINIC

Later, Ms. Clinton walked through the "Kutchra" road braving scorching heat to visit a satellite clinic run by Concerned Women for Family Planning (CWFP) in the same village.

As she was walking with her daughter the people of the village gathered on both sides of the road to have a glimpse of the US First Lady. She waved to the people smilingly.

Executive Director of CWFP welcoming Ms Clinton to the clinic premises narrated different aspects of ongoing and perspective programmes. She said CWFP was responsible for distributing contraceptives to women and providing health and nutrition education services to mothers and children.

She further informed Ms. Clinton that CWFP was operating 22 project sites covering a total of about 1.4 million population.

BSS adds the US-Bangladesh Joint training programme designed to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of Bangladesh Air Force personnel in aeromedical operation for mass evacuation during natural disaster is in progress at the BAF Base, Mafur Rahman here according to an ISPR press release.

A joint team of experts from the United States Air Force and the Bangladesh Air Force along with their aircraft and helicopters are taking part in the programme.

Bangladesh Times
Apr. 3, 1995

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THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 4 1995

Welcome To Hillary In Bangladesh

Amid the warmest welcome of the people, US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in Dhaka Sunday. This is the first ever visit to Bangladesh of an American First Lady. Behind the hilarious warmth with which she has been received in Bangladesh is, in the main, the fact that she somehow remains almost naturally identified with this country because, chiefly, of her interest in children and women, or children and their mothers.

And we can assure her she will see quite a few of them (to use an uncharacteristic Bangladeshi understatement). So many of them indeed will come her way, not wholly literally, because she would be moving along roads and in transports that will keep her away from the actual (physical) human landscape represented by those in whom she is so profoundly interested—women and children.

The human scene will be seen replicated nearly all over the South Asian region she has planned to tour—India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. It wears about the same features to be attractive to those whose feelings for these twin classes of humans are genuine. And we state with a real sense of pride that Mrs Hillary's are immaculately so, for it has been an integral part not only of her social interests but of her academic ones too. She has allowed them to grow with her, which is what has drawn her so close to the people of this country.

We feel tempted not to leave off and indulge in the generalities of welcome to our honoured guest. We instead are trying to add some fuel to the flames, (if that is the phrase to use). The flame is her warm interest in the welfare of children and women, and the fuel we are trying to provide is to place before her the reality of children and women's problems in Bangladesh. To prevent that almost effortlessly translating into a cliché, we would point out, in a nutshell, that this is a gigantic third world problem, and one as big, if not bigger, for Bangladesh.

We appreciate deeply her interest in Mr Yunus' Grameen Bank and his idea of welfare for women (plus children) as part of a plan to alleviate poverty. It is working well and, we hope, if allowed to operate as it has started to do, it could do a lot to provide relief.

Yet, we do not pretend to accept that this will more than scratch the problem of poverty—or, for that matter, of children and mothers in this country. If, even so much may have been done or is being planned (in theory), so much inevitably remains as the greatest challenge to Afro-Asian LDCs (least developed countries). Bangladesh, like eighteenth century Ireland, is one of them with her women and children. Of Irish poverty Jonathan Swift has drawn a lurid picture in his classic performance, as the greatest ironist in literature in his Modest Proposal. We have no Bangladeshi edition of Swift, nor has S. Asia.

Literary giants like Swift have long been dead and buried. But the social problem of poverty with the newly created Irelands across the third world remains. These lots of women and Children stay at the centre of social development in these poverty-ridden parts of the world. South East Asia including Bangladesh is the most representative part of the region—and the problem. In concrete terms the problems in the main are: literacy, health care and the decay and death that follows from hunger and undernourishment and so on. It affects nearly 80% of the populations—only to indicate in passing the actual size of the problem, besides the potential.

The ironic part of the scene is that national governments are, either from misconceived notions of development, inadequacy of resources used as an excuse, or simple lack of interest in the grass-roots welfare problems of the nation, have been found less than interested in overcoming the problem, the Copenhagen summit and the declaration in which it has urged national governments to do at least 20% of their spending on poverty notwithstanding.

It is in such facts that Mrs Hillary will discover her area of action—beyond those of her noble theoretic ones. The great thing about the honoured visiting US First Lady is that at least here is a lady, holding a high socio-political position, interested, beyond question, in a real third world problem. She could, if she willed, do a lot to make the aid receiving 3rd world countries abide by conditions set by giver countries: the main one would be—yes, a string attached to it—that top priority would be given to poverty alleviation in these countries, with tangible results in this respect for eligibility for continued aid.

In a word, social development in these S. Asian countries, is so great a problem that leverages like this need to be used by the World Bank, IMF and the donor countries. Mrs Hillary Clinton as the First Lady of America could help a lot in this matter. This we say because we believe she means serious business in respect of welfare of women and children.

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